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Islamic Affairs

International Islamic Unity Conference Concludes

LD1608123595 Tehran IRNA in English 0751 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 16 (IRNA) — The 8th International Islamic Unity Conference ended its work here Tuesday night by releasing a statement which underlined the need for avoiding discord, opportunism and bigoted nationalism.

The 10-article document said that the Islamic states should strive to further materialize solidarity and adopt a unique social and political stand against conspiracies of the enemies.

Referring to the current plots hatched to eliminate the Muslim ummah, the statement touched upon the issue of Palestine and that of Bosnia-Herzegovina and said all compromising solutions to the Palestinian question were not acceptable.

As for the issue of Bosnia, it condemned the spiteful plots of the West against the Bosnian people and argued that ethnic cleansing of a defenseless nation was a joint global conspiracy with the participation of the United Nations and all arrogant powers.

The document pointed to the holy Koran as the major source to formulate the Islamic Sharia (religious laws), adding that the holy prophet's instructions should be considered as the second source of the islamic Sharia.

The need for collecting common narrations between the Shiite and Sunni Muslims which were attributed to the Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) and formulation of joint regulations for interpretation of narrations were among other issues the document referred to.

Later, the participants of the conference who had come from 30 Islamic countries, attended a ceremony called 'A Night With Bosnia' which referred to the massacre of helpless Muslims in that republic.

They criticized Western countries for keeping silence vis-a-vis serb crimes in Bosnia only because the helpless Bosnians were adhering to Islam. The participants called for coordinated measures by the islamic states to find a solution to the devastating crisis.

The ceremony was chaired by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, leader's representative in Bosnia affairs, who said the Islamic countries should immediately make a decision to put an end to the deplorable situation of the oppressed Bosnians.

Ayatollah Jannati stressed that the Bosnian Muslims were subject to brutal aggressions, urging the Muslims to extend help to their brothers in faith.

Another speaker of the ceremony was Friday prayer leader of Washington Mohammad al-Assi who condemned the deadly silence of western communities and international organizations towards the Bosnian crisis and said Muslims should not overlook the brutal aggressions of the Serbs and massacre of children and women at the heart of Europe which alleged to be supporter of human rights.

The ceremony ended by releasing a 12-article statement which denounced massacre of Muslims and called for immediate measures by Islamic states in this respect.

Seyyed Sajid Naqawi was another speaker who addressed the closing session and said Muslims should seriously avoid sectarianism. He stressed that unity among all Muslims would not be materialized unless they put aside differences.

The Syrian mufti, Shaykh Ibrahim Muhammad Hassun, also told the gathering that Muslims would achieve unity only through observing Islamic laws and regulations.

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 8 Aug

NC1408183095

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is the 261st in a series of editorial reports on political Islam in Egypt. These reports include summaries of all articles, reports, interviews, commentaries, and other items on political Islam that have been published in all the issues of the Cairo Arabic newspapers 'AQIDATI, AL-NUR, and AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYAH since late December 1993 and most issues of the twice-weekly AL-SHA'B. Unless otherwise indicated, no further processing of the items summarized below has been done or is planned.

This editorial report reviews the 8 August edition of 'AQIDATI.

Contents:

1. Mubarak Addresses Conference on Religions at Mankind's

Service

2. Chief Editor Notes Egypt's Efforts for Unity

3. Religions Conference Demands Resolute Decisions on Bosnia

4. Israeli Government Position on al-Aqsa Incidents Criticized

5. Writer Demands Clear Position on Women's Conference

Mubarak Addresses Conference on Religions at Mankind's Service

An unattributed 3,000-word report on pages 1 and 3 gives the text of President Husni Mubarak's speech to the "Seventh Conference on Religions at the Service of Mankind" organized in Alexandria by the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs. In addition the report summarizes the report, highlighting Mubarak's assertion that "fanaticism is unknown to the Egyptian people, whose long history and long-standing civilization testify to their tolerance and adherence to the teachings of religion without exaggeration or rigidity."

The report notes that president affirmed in his speech that "Egypt resents violence and rigidity and calls for fair stances on all issues." It also notes Mubarak's appeal to the world to "take the side of righteousness" in Bosnia and protect its Muslims.

The "text" of the speech is published on page 3.

Chief Editor Notes Egypt's Efforts for Unity

Chief Editor Samir Rajab writes in his front-page column "In Truth I Speak" a 400-word article about the Conference on Religions at the Service of Mankind. He points out that Egypt constantly "holds conferences, seminars, and meetings to bring various religions closer" and "seeks harmony of feelings and sows the seeds of friendship, tolerance, and sympathy."

Rajab praises President Mubarak's speech to the conference, noting that it touched on the essential principle "that all heavenly religions resent aggression and advocate friendship and peaceful coexistence among mankind."

He hopes "reasonable people" will remember that "their interest lies in peace rather than in war; in solidarity rather than disputes; in tolerance rather than severity and violence; and in standing together rather than in shedding blood and killing souls."

He hopes the world "will listen to what Egypt says."

Religions Conference Demands "Resolute" Decision on Bosnia

A 400-word report by Muhammad al-Abnudi and Majdi Za'tar on page 2 gives an account of the opening session of the Seventh Conference on Religions at the Service of Mankind in Alexandria.

Al-Azhar Rector Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq called on the conferees "to pass diligent resolutions on the problems that concern the Islamic world." He criticized the United Nations, which had given no consideration to people suffering from injustice."

"Imam of the Preachers" Shaykh Muhammad Mutawalli al-Sha'rawi called on the conferees to look into the resolutions adopted by previous conferences to see which of them has been implemented.

Coptic Pope Shanudah called for "support for the Muslims in Bosnia" and appealed to the world to consolidate efforts to "safeguard their peace and security." He also criticized the arms embargo of Bosnia.

Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid described developments in Bosnia as "a shame for the Islamic nation" and called for "consolidated efforts to repulse the threat of terrorism."

The secretary general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference warned of a "fierce onslaught, a deliberate media campaign against Islam...to control the Islamic world's resources."

He stressed the need to "set up a committee of experts to stand up to these distortions and show the real face of Islam and its clear-cut position on several sensitive issues...."

Israeli Government Position on al-Aqsa Incidents Criticized

On page 6, Basyuni al-Halwani writes in his 500-word "Frankly Speaking" column that the "regrettable" events in the al-Aqsa Mosque "show beyond doubt that the Jews will not renounce their fanaticism and that the peace efforts and the normalization of relations between Israel and a number of Arab states will not assuage the extremist Jews' malice."

Al-Halwani maintains that the "bystander's role" the Israeli government is playing vis-a-vis these "bloody incidents" and "its protection of extremist Jews" encourage them to commit more aggression against the "first Qiblah" of the Muslims.

Pointing out that "Jewish synagogues" in Muslim countries get "the kind a protection the Israeli Government has never provided to al-Aqsa Mosque and other Islamic sanctities," he says that defiling the mosque "could obstruct all peace efforts and push all Arab states to sever their relations with the Israeli Government."

He stresses that the Israeli Government should "show by its actions rather than mere statements that it truly seeks a just and comprehensive peace with the Arabs and Muslims."

Writer Demands Clear Position on Women's Conference

In his 600-word column "A Call to Reason" on page 23, al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf recalls the "controversy" that preceded the International Conference on Population and Development, ICPD, noting that this was "one of the rare occasions when both Muslims and Christians were in agreement." He notes that President Mubarak affirmed in a statement at the time that "we will neither approve of nor commit ourselves to anything that conflicts with Islamic shari'ah."

"As we prepare with the world for the Fourth International Conference on Women in Beijing...a warning call has come from London, where Muslim scholars have called on the United Nations to avert a possible economic and social crisis, which is bound to happen if that conference adopts resolutions that conflict with Islamic shari'ah," 'Abd-al-Ra'uf says.

Noting "the absence of an organized Islamic effort" to confront the "irreligious" documents and resolutions coming from such international conferences, he notes that "no scientific or realistic explanation" has been heard so far regarding what the women's conference will try to pass. He says that efforts will be made at the Beijing conference "to pass things that were too difficult to pass at the ICPD."

'Abd-al-Ra'uf concludes by appealing to all official and nonofficial quarters "to clearly publicize all the facts concerning that conference and to clearly declare Egypt's unswerving position, which we should not change—namely, that it will have nothing to do with passing or committing itself to resolutions that run counter to the texts or spirit of Islam."

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 11 Aug

NC1708065795

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is the 262d in a series of editorial reports on political Islam in Egypt. These reports include summaries of all articles, reports, interviews, commentaries, and other items on political Islam that have been published in all the issues of the Cairo Arabic newspapers 'AQIDATI, AL-NUR, and AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYAH since late December 1993 and most issues of the twice-weekly AL-SHA'B. Unless otherwise indicated, no further processing of the items summarized below has been done or is planned.

This editorial report reviews AL-SHA'B's 11 August issue.

Contents:

1. Majdi Husayn's Visit to U.S. Reported
2. Government-Brotherhood Relationship, Coexistence Examined
3. Egypt Reportedly Tried To Frame Sudan
4. Labor's 'Adil Husayn Urges End to Attacks on Sudan, Unity
5. Former Detainee Relates Experiences

Majdi Husayn's Visit to U.S. Reported

The newspaper publishes the following unattributed report on page 1 on its chief editor's trip to the United States:

"Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn is making a journalistic visit to the United States following an invitation from the governmental U.S. Information Agency. The visit is part of an international visitor program. Many prominent Egyptian journalists have made similar trips through this program.

"It is to the credit of the U.S. Government that it does not close its doors to its opponents."

Government-Brotherhood Relationship, Coexistence Examined

The leading front page story in this issue, which continues on page 10, is an unattributed 1,500-word report on a statement issued by the London-based Liberty organization on or around 9 August about the current crisis between the Egyptian Government and the Muslim Brotherhood. The report says the Liberty statement notes the escalation of the government's campaign against the Brotherhood in an apparent abandonment of a "coexistence" that lasted several years during which both sides observed "red lines" that they did not cross. Basically the Brotherhood would not publicly criticize President Mubarak, his family, or close aides or incite public resentment against the State by demonstrations and strikes. The government, in return, would refrain from harassing or arresting major Muslim Brotherhood figures. The Liberty statement says that following demonstrations by Egyptian lawyers in May 1994 protesting the death in police custody of lawyer 'Abd-al-Harith Madani, the government stepped up measures against the Muslim Brotherhood, affiliated professional associations, and teachers suspected of Islamist tendencies. It also cracked down on Islamists in general.

Carried within this story is a brief report called "Al-Hudaybi Denies" by Dawud Hasan inside a box on page 1. It reads in its entirety:

"Counselor Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, the Muslim Brotherhood's official spokesman and deputy general guide, has denied that any agreement has been struck with the government or any of its agencies on the issue of public service and religious call. Commenting on a report by the Liberty organization referring to an agreement between the Muslim Brotherhood and the government, al-Hudaybi told AL-SHA'B: The report is pure analysis by its authors. In our actions, we keep in mind the interests of religious call and the various circumstances surrounding us.

"Al-Hudaybi added that he rejects all the practices and excesses perpetrated against others and that contravene the Constitution and human rights. He urged that suspects in every case be tried before a judge and said that accusations should not be made against innocent people."

Egypt Reportedly Tried to Frame Sudan

The paper devotes space to the continuing dispute between Egypt and Sudan stemming from the attempt on President Mubarak's life in Addis Ababa on 26 June, which the Egyptian authorities have accused Sudan of instigating. On page 1 the paper publishes a 400-word item, citing the Sudanese newspaper AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH, which is summarized below:

The Egyptian interrogators who went to Ethiopia to take part in the investigation into the assassination attempt on Mubarak tried to smuggle three parcels of weapons into the country with them. Their aim was to place them inside one of the houses used by the people who attacked Mubarak's motorcade and after that to claim that they were Sudanese weapons, thus laying the blame on the Sudanese regime. But the weapons were discovered by Ethiopian officials, who became very angry. Wishing to avoid a scandal, the Egyptians then tried to retrieve the weapons but the Ethiopians refused.

Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri, in a 350-word article on page 10, says that Sudan is the target of a conspiracy. He expresses appreciation for an article by Mahmud Murad, entitled "A Conspiracy on the Banks of the Nile" published on 8 August in the government- owned newspaper AL-AHRAM.

Shukri's article, called "The Conspiracy Has Actually Begun," declares that the bonds between Egypt and Sudan are greater than any "transient disagreements" and that Sudan is Egypt's southern shield. He warns that recent activities by the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in the south prove that the conspiracy against Sudan is continuing.

AL-SHA'B goes on to reprint the aforementioned article by Mahmud Murad in AL-AHRAM. In 1,500 words Murad says he opposes the Sudanese Government's actions and believes that its behavior stems from "a mixture of personal ambition, a nationalist separatist creed, and sectarian extremism." He warns the Sudanese opposition not to help the cause of people, be they southern rebels or others, who wish to fragment Sudan into several small statelets. He says he believes that Hasan al-Turabi himself would accept the country's partition if he could avoid "getting his hands dirty" in public and if he could build a "limited and small Islamic state on the ruins."

Murad offers no solution to the current dispute between the Sudanese Government and its opposition but calls on both parties to examine their priorities and seek to keep the country united.

Labor's 'Adil Husayn Urges End to Attacks on Sudan, Unity

Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn discusses the Egyptian Government's accusation that Sudan was involved in the assassination attempt against Mubarak in a 4,500-word article on page 5. He faults the government for hastening to accuse the Sudanese authorities of involvement in the attack without waiting for the results of the investigation by the Ethiopian authorities. He cites an Ethiopian Interior Ministry statement that says the "perpetrators of the operation were all Egyptian nationals, active members in the Islamic Group." He also refers to the reported Egyptian attempt to plant evidence—in the form of weapon parcels bearing Sudanese markings—in one of the houses used by the would-be assassins and declares: "There is insistence on framing the Sudanese Government with statements rather than investigation and by fabricating evidence after the start of the investigation!"

He accuses Sudanese opposition figures living in Egypt of planning to carry out terrorist acts and assassinate Sudanese leaders and calls on them to halt their activities. He declares that a Sudanese opposition conference held in Asmara, Eritrea, in June 1995 was sponsored by the United States and aimed to divide Sudan into several small states. Husayn warns of the threat to Nile sources implicit in such a partition, saying that the Israelis favor intervention in this issue to exert pressure on Egypt and terrorize it.

Husayn praises Sudan's becoming an Islamist country and addresses the Egyptian Government: "O rulers, learn that Sudan has become something like a shrine to God, eagerly sought by the hearts of Muslims everywhere."

Noting the opportunities for cooperation between Egypt and the water-rich and fertile Sudan, he calls for integration between the two countries and for "extensive emigration" from the northern Nile Valley to the south.

He declares: "We must put on record that all the patriotic forces and all the opposition political parties firmly oppose any aggression by the [Egyptian] rulers against Sudan. They also oppose all the conspiracies that seek to fragment the Sudanese State. Nevertheless they cannot have a firm stance on this issue unless they reject the so-called 'Sudanese opposition,' which is planning an armed invasion assisted by the United States and Israel and seeks, as we made clear, to separate south Sudan and other territories."

Noting that even Western sources admit that the Sudanese rulers are well-educated and successful, Husayn urges the Egyptian political parties to be more enthusiastic about supporting Sudan.

He writes: "O patriots: This is how the current Sudanese rulers are described. They have administered their country with splendid success over the past few years in the face of very difficult challenges. O patriots, do not fall prey to the misleading official media. You know well that these media applaud the U.S.-Israeli policy that opposes Muslim renaissance and Arab unity."

Former Detainee Relates Experiences

On page 2 the paper publishes a 3,000-word report by Hasan al-Qamhawi, who relates the recollections of a former detainee, imprisoned in accordance with the Emergency Law, about his three years in detention. The former prisoner is identified only as "Abu-'Abdallah" to conceal his true identity and protect him from government reprisals.

The former prisoner says he was first arrested because his name came up in connection with a suspect in the Vanguards of Conquest security case, although his relationship with that suspect was limited to transactions in the clothing business.

Among the experiences the former prisoner relates are the following:

—Detainees who are ordered to be released by the courts are not actually freed but sent west to the al-Wadi al-Jadid Jail to keep them out of sight. They can only be released if the state security director in their governorate orders it, regardless of what the courts say.

—Detainees are held in narrow cells, given small quantities of poor-quality food, beaten, and insulted. The sick are often denied medicine.

—When they are moved from one jail to another, which occasionally happens, the prisoners are forced to walk the gauntlet between two rows of Central Security troops carrying sticks with which they beat them.

—The hair and beards of some prisoners are shorn roughly to make them appear disfigured.

—Communication among prisoners and collective prayers are prohibited.

Palestinian Affairs

Spokesman Denies Hamas Threatened U.S. Interests

JN1708092495 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 17 Aug 95 p 15

[FBIS Translated Text] London—QUDS PRESS—An official spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, denied that the movement threatened to strike U.S. interests in the region if the U.S. authorities failed to release Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of Hamas Political Office. Abu-Marzuq is now held in custody in the United States pending sufficient Israeli evidence to extradite him.

In a telephone conversation with QUDS PRESS Agency, Hamas Spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah said: "No threat to that effect has been made either through Hamas Movement statements or through its official spokesman. He added that the movement "made it clear that the U.S. Administration should immediately release Dr. Abu-Marzuq. It warned that the continuation of his arrest would spark mass movements in the Arab and Islamic world that would be hard to restrain."

The Hamas spokesman stressed that his movement "is committed to its strategic platform based on resisting the Zionist occupation inside the occupied Palestinian territories." However, Ghawshah emphasized that in the event the U.S. Administration "insists on continuing its detention of Abu-Marzuq and extraditing him to the Zionist entity, which is even more serious, Hamas would revise its strategy in the conflict in light of any serious actions by the U.S. Administration."

The Palestinian spokesman expressed his belief that the U.S. Administration and Israel are seeking, through the arrest of Abu- Marzuq, to make party gains in the forthcoming elections scheduled for next year.

In another development, Ghawshah accused Chairman of the Palestinian Authority [PA] Yasir 'Arafat and a number of his advisers of trying to split the ranks of Palestinian opposition. He added: "This trend in the PA is primarily concerned with boosting dissident wings to undermine the mainstream of any Palestinian faction."

He pointed out that the PA seeks to "divert the attention of the Palestinian people from the concessions and relinquishment that are being made." He stressed that his movement "has discovered an attempt by the PA to penetrate its ranks politically."

Ghawshah denied that the proclamation in Gaza a few days ago of the Islamic [National] Path Movement will have any impact on the cohesion of Hamas Movement. He noted: "Hamas is a unified body possessing all elements of power in the West Bank, Gaza, and the diaspora."

Ghawshah, a member of the Hamas Political Office, added: The PA seeks to create illusionary wings inside the movement with the aim of weakening it." He pointed out: "The PA has had only slight success in this regard."

'Arafat Announces Detention of 4 Hamas Members

TA1708135095 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yasir 'Arafat says his staff last night detained four Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists who had planned to carry out a terrorist attack in Israel, thereby preventing a major strike on Israel. 'Arafat did not note whether the four were the wanted men who had caused Israel to impose a closure on the Gaza Strip.

Our correspondent Adam Shuv further reports that in a meeting with Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur, 'Arafat complained that Israel and the Palestinians are unable to reach an understanding on Hebron although only 300 Israelis live in the city, the rest being students who do not permanently reside in Hebron.

'Arafat also protested the protracted negotiations on the water issue and complained that members of the Israeli negotiating team had insulted their Palestinian colleagues by asserting that they use less water than the Israelis.

Jericho VOP Reports Further on Hebron Rally

JN1708080495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A popular conference in defense of the city of Hebron, organized by the national and Islamic institutions and key figures in the Hebron Governorate, concluded meetings yesterday and issued a final statement. Here is Salim Abu-Salih's dispatch from Hebron.

[Begin Abu-Salih recording] The drafting committee issued the final statement late last night. The statement emphasizes the following:

1. Support for the Palestinian national leadership's rejection of the Israeli position. Hebron must be treated like other West Bank cities. The Israeli Army must withdraw from it and settlers must be evacuated from the city center.

2. Hebron is an Arab and Islamic city which should come under Palestinian sovereignty. All civil and security powers should be transferred to the Palestinian National Authority.

3. Freezing the current negotiations until Israel abides by the principle of full withdrawal from the Palestinian cities and populated areas, particularly the city of Hebron.

4. The Ibrahimi Mosque is purely Islamic. Dividing it is rejected. All restrictions impeding the freedom of Muslim worshipping in this mosque should be lifted.

5. The municipal council and all city departments should intensify their presence in the old part of the city in any way they deem fit, and support the city inhabitants by all possible means.

6. The conferees called on the Palestinian masses to support the Hebron Governorate and boycott the legislative elections if Israel continues to insist on not withdrawing from Hebron.

7. A committee will be formed to prepare for a general popular conference for the entire governorate with the aim of defending the city of Hebron and confronting the settlers' practices and attempts to seize the old city.

8. Owners of closed shops and deserted buildings are invited to reopen their shops and refurbish these buildings in order to solve the housing problem in the city.

The atmosphere of the conference echoed our people's unity in defense of Hebron and the national Palestinian goals—a trend that is daily being entrenched among our people. Yes to the independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital, and a thousand no's to occupation and settlers' actions. No voice shall rise above the freedom of our people and their sovereignty over their soil. [end recording]

Hebron Demands Evacuation of Settlers, Sovereignty

JN1608191395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Aug 95

[Dispatch by Salim Abu-Salih from Hebron]

[FBIS Translated Text] The popular gathering that was held in the city hall in Hebron under the slogan "In Defense of the City," was concluded a short while ago by stressing the following issues:

1. The Hebron Governorate, with its population of 400,000, and Hebron city, the governorate's heart and center with its population of 150,000, insist on a comprehensive and full withdrawal from the city, both its center and suburbs, and on handing over all civilian and security powers the Palestinian National Authority, just like other cities of the West Bank.

2. All settlement hotbeds in the city must be evacuated. These settlement hotbeds have paralyzed the city because of the continued attacks on citizens by settlers and the Israel Defense Forces [IDF] deployed in the city to protect and support the settlers. Evacuation of settlers would restore normal life to the 150,000 citizens living in the city and the 400,000 citizens in the entire governorate. Those people hear about peace from the news media, but they do not see its fruits.

3. The gathering stresses the Arab and Islamic character of the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque and rejects all Israeli measures harming its Islamic character, for it is a mosque purely belonging to Muslims.

4. All citizens in the entire West Bank and Gaza strip are called upon to support the Hebron population, reject any piecemeal withdrawal so that withdrawal would cover the entire West Bank, and not to take part in the elections if Hebron is exlcuded from full, comprehensive withdrawal. Yesterday, holy Jerusalem was excluded, today Hebron, tomorrow what?

5. If the aforementioned items are not achieved, the Hebron population will continue its struggle to wrench its legitimate rights.

The conference was opened at 1700 today in the presence of a group of personalities and senior officials from the governorate, a number of ministers and their aides, and foreign consuls. The conferees agreed to set up a committee to draft the final statement of the conference, which is expected to be distributed tomorrow morning. They also agreed to set up a preparatory committee comprising various institutions, personalities, and political forces to define the practical steps that should be taken to achieve the main purpose for the sake of which the popular gathering was held; namely, to pressure Israel to respond to its obligations according to signed agreements, evacuate settlers from the city, and impose Palestinian sovereignty over every inch in it.

To Boycott Elections If Troops Remain

JN1608172395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1445 GMT 16 Aug 95

[Dispatch by Yasir 'Atilah from Hebron; from the "Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Good evening. A few minutes ago, a meeting attended by about 200 participants began here at Hebron's city hall. The meeting was called by Mayor Mustafa 'Abd-al-Nabi al- Natshah. The meeting is attended by representatives of municipal officials and nationalist and Islamic personalities from various groups. Moments ago, while he was heading to the hall, the Hebron mayor made the following remarks:

[Begin recording] ['Atila] What is the purpose of the meeting?

[Al-Natshah] The meeting is intended to stress that Hebron must be dealt with like other West Bank cities, such as Nabulus and Ramallah, and that it has the right to full, comprehensive withdrawal of the Israeli Army and the handing over of all civilian, military, and security powers in this city to the Palestinian National Authority and the Palestinian police.

['Atilah] Can it be said that this meeting is intended to convey a message to the Palestinian and Israeli officials? What is the content of this message?

[Al-Natshah] The purpose of the meeting is to convey a message to the Israeli and Palestinian negotiating teams and to Palestinian, Arab, and international public opinion. This message says that just like other West Bank cities, Hebron has the right to full, comprehensive withdrawal of Israeli troops.

['Atilah] How would you respond if the political leaders of the two sides make decisions that might not agree with your stand?

[Al-Natshah] If there is any attempt to deny Hebron this legitimate right, then the Hebron Governorate's entire population of 400,000 will boycott the elections. We will call on brother Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to support us and boycott the elections as well. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Finally, the Palestinian Authority [PA] is represented at the meeting by Dr. 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Ashahab, PA official in charge of telecommunications, whom we will interview during or after the meeting. The meeting is also attended by Brigadier General Abu-Khalid al-Lahham, adviser to the PA chairman, and Ahamd Sa'id Bayyud, under secretary of the PA Interior Office, which is led by PA Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The meeting is attended for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] by Shaykh Talal Sadr and Shaykh Taysir Bayyud al-Tamimi, deputy chairman of the League of the Scholars of Palestine. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine is represented at the meeting by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Natshah and others. Fatah Movement's Higher Committee is represented by Kamal Shuwayki and others, while the People's Party is represented by Fahmi Shahin.

'Urayqat: Phased Withdrawal From Hebron Proposed

JN1608162095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian negotiator Sa'ib 'Urayqat has told our correspondent Yasir 'Atilah that the Palestinian delegation to the ongoing negotiations in Elat today presented to the Israeli delegation a working paper demanding two-phased withdrawal of Israeli forces from Hebron.

Hebron Mayor Mustafa 'Abd-al-Nabi al-Natshah said the Palestinians insist that Hebron's status be like that of the rest of West Bank cities.

New Islamic Movement Figure Comments on Policy

NC1608203495 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Aug 95

[Report by MBC correspondent in Jerusalem Nabil al-Khatib]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, is witnessing the first political shake-up in its ranks. The formation of a new movement—the Islamic National Path Movement—by some Hamas founding members has raised questions about whether Hamas still leads the Islamic trend in Palestine. What characterizes the new movement is that it is the only political Islamic group in Palestine that leans toward alliance with the Palestinian Authority [PA] and does not reject the Oslo agreement.

Muhammad Abu-Dan, one of the founding members of the new movement, said:

[Begin Abu-Dan recording] Our convictions are based on the precepts of Islamic jurisprudence. We believe that dealing with the PA is a must in building a Palestinian society and serving the Palestinian people. Another important point is that every effort must focus on serving the Palestinian people inside the self-rule areas. It must be clear that unity will be achieved through dialogue, not violence. [end recording]

The effect of the new movement on the power of the leading Islamic Palestinian force is not yet clear. The new movement is composed of the more moderate figures in Hamas. It is not clear if the new movement will augment the blow dealt to Hamas by the arrest of its leaders in Gaza. Hamas and the Islamic Jihad movement have so far been in control of the opposition.

While Hamas sources refuse to comment on the new movement, various forces in Gaza remain undecided about their stance on this new movement. [passage omitted]

Nabulus Suspected Israeli Collaborator Wounded

TA1608154495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Nabulus resident was seriously wounded by Fatah Hawks' shots, on suspicion of collaboration with Israel.

Nabulus sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the man, Samar Sirawi, was tied hand and foot and shot in Nabulus' casbah in full view of passersby.

Paper Criticizes Decision Closing Jerusalem Offices

TA1608154995 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 15 Aug 95 p 13

[Editorial: "A New Israeli Obstacle"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli decisions adopted yesterday by the Ministerial Committee on Jerusalem Affairs against Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem as a preliminary step to closing them, and the hardline statements by Police Minister Moshe Shahal in which he threatened the Palestinians with closing down their institutions within two weeks, affirm that this official Israeli stance means that the Israeli Government has decided to yield to the positions of the radical Israeli right wing and the settlers and to their feverish campaign against Palestinian institutions and the peace process — with all that this entails in terms of the grave consequences to the current talks and to the possibility of progress in the peace process.

These decisions and threats not only contravene the spirit of the peace process and the presumed climate for progress but they clearly contravene the Declaration of Principles [DOP] and official Israeli commitments on the status of Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem. This means that Israel is persistently trying to determine the fate of Jerusalem unilaterally, ignoring Palestinian rights on one hand, and the resolutions of international legitimacy concerning Jerusalem on the other.

Considering that the talks on implementing the second stage of the DOP are facing numerous obstacles and hurdles, evidently this Israeli stance represents a new escalation and adds a large obstacle that the Palestinian side cannot ignore or evade if the peace process is to continue moving in the right direction.

In sum, what was approved yesterday in Israel constitutes a new and grave turning point that threatens the continuity of the peace process. If Israel is really interested in the continuation of this process, it had better back down from these decisions and act seriously to stop the extreme right wing's aggression and attacks that seek to destroy the peace process, instead of yielding to the pressures being imposed by the settlers and opponents of the peace process through their armed attacks and continuous violations of all laws.

'Arafat Adviser Interviewed on Tunis Meetings

JN1608150595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1120 GMT 16 Aug 95

[Telephone interview with Marwan Kanafani, adviser and spokesman for PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, in Gaza on 16 August by an unidentified correspondent, from "Today's Events" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Kanafani] Unquestionably, the Tunis meetings were successful in terms of the agreement by all members that we are experiencing a delicate and critical stage in the life and struggle of the Palestinian people. The Executive Committee discussed in depth the current stage, specifically the attempts to implement the peace agreement and subsequent developments, especially the joint statement issued at the end of the Palestinian- Israeli Taba meeting, which was led on the Palestinian side by President Yasir 'Arafat. As you know, the PLO Executive Committee has said that it would have endorsed the statement had an agreement been reached on all topics. However, since the joint statement issued by the Taba meeting simply lists points of agreement and points of disagreement, there was no need for endorsement. Nor was there an objection to the statement, because it only contained the points around which an agreement was reached, those in which some progress has been achieved, and the points around which no agreement was reached. The president returned today at the end of the meetings of the PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Committee. The PLO Executive Committee met with those attending and discussed matters in a democratic, open, and responsible atmosphere. The meetings concluded late last night. We left Tunis shortly before dawn, and arrived home this morning.

[Correspondent] Brother Marwan, during the president's visit, a meeting was held between him and the Tunisian president. What about that meeting?

[Kanafani] You know that President 'Arafat has a warm, strong, and longstanding relationship with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. Tunis has a special status among the Palestinian people since it has been hosting the PLO and many Palestinian citizens for over 12 years. Therefore, in this context, President 'Arafat called on his brother Zine El Abidine and discussed with him many regional, Arab, Palestinian, and international matters. President 'Arafat enjoys President Zine El Abidine's support, appreciation, and respect for the independent Palestinian decisionmaking. This has made Tunis more than a sisterly and friendly country.

[Correspondent] Once again, brother Marwan, what about yesterday's rumors on a traffic accident involving the president's motorcade?

[Kanafani] Definitely, those are unfounded rumors. They may indicate attempts by some Israeli extremists to create tension in the life of the president. That is why they are spreading daily rumors and creating fabrications. Another possibility might be that those criminals are planning for something, God forbid, and are setting the stage for that. Generally speaking, the rumors need no comment. They are ridiculous and unfounded. However, I personally believe that vigilance and caution should now be among our top priorities.

[Correspondent] Marwan Kanafani, adviser and spokesman for the president, welcome back and thank you.

[Kanafani] Thank you.

Paper: Taba Accord 'Positive Step' Forward

TA1508185195 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 12 Aug 95 p 13

[Editorial: "The Important Thing Is Implementation and Continued Progress"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The partial agreement initialed by the Palestinian and Israeli sides in Taba yesterday, following intensive talks between President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, is undoubtedly an important and positive step toward implementing the second stage of the Oslo accord, which has been delayed for a long time. This delay created a climate of frustration and skepticism about the seriousness of Israel's intentions to implement the pledges and commitments it had undertaken.

While this partial agreement is a step in the right direction, in order to become proof of the seriousness and desire of peacemaking it should, on one hand, be turned into a comprehensive agreement through the achievement of satisfactory solutions to the remaining points of contention. On the other hand, it should be implemented according to the agreed timetables and not meet a fate similar to the cycles of procrastination and delay which the original Declaration of Principles [DOP] experienced and continues to experience.

If the most important pending issues are Hebron and the Israeli redeployment in it, the water issue, certain problems relating to elections in Jerusalem, and so on, the results of the intensive talks between President 'Arafat and Peres and the two negotiating teams over four nights affirm that solutions to the various points of dispute can be reached. What is needed is seriousness and a sincere desire to take other steps toward implementing the DOP in preparation for the more important stage of the upcoming talks: the talks on a final settlement.

Hence, in order for the partial agreement to become an achievement, Israel must show seriousness and readiness to resolve the remaining points of contention in accordance with the letter and spirit of the DOP and the goals of the current peace process. It should abandon those positions that up to now have constituted a stumbling block to reaching a comprehensive agreement.

In view of the crucial stage of the talks, it behooves Israeli officials to stop issuing intransigent statements and stands, particularly those officials who began to make such statements yesterday before the ink on the signatures on the agreement had dried. Such positions and interpretations serve neither the peace process nor progress toward a comprehensive agreement. They only cause more delay and procrastination and perhaps retreat. This must be taken into account when everyone is hoping that more steps forward will be taken.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Talks Begin in Gaza on 1967 Displaced Palestinians

TA1608160095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel and Palestinian negotiators meeting in Elat to work out unresolved issues in the next phase of Palestinian self-rule made little headway today. The Palestinians called for an Israeli withdrawal from Hebron in two stages. They said special security arrangements for Hebron's Jewish residents should be set up only in the heart of the town. Israel presented a position paper on water rights, which the Palestinians rejected.

In Gaza, talks on displaced Palestinians are under way between Israel, the Palestinians, Jordan, and Egypt. The main issue under dispute is who qualifies as a displaced person versus a refugee. Israel says about 250,000 Palestinians from the 1967 war are eligible for the status. The Palestinians claim more than 1 million Palestinians have been displaced.

Algeria

Zeroual Asks for UN Observers for Elections

LD1608160095 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Algerian President Liamine Zeroual has officially asked the UN secretary general to be prepared to send observers on the occasion of the presidential elections scheduled for yearend.

Despite the fact that violence is continuing, the authorities are still actively preparing for these elections. [passage omitted]

Former Ministers Critical of Plans for Elections

LD1608225295 Paris Radio France International in French 2130 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Regarding the preparations for presidential elections in Algeria, President Zeroual is reported to have proposed the date of 17 November for the first round.

In other developments, two political figures of the National Liberation Front met President Zeroual yesterday. They are Dr. Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, a former foreign minister, and Mouloud Hamrouche, a former prime minister. Both are of the view that an election is inconceivable in the absence of an agreement with the opposition. Mouloud Hamrouche spoke to our reporter Noureddine Bouziane.

[Begin recording] [Hamrouche] I accepted President Zeroual's invitation in order to tell him this: that the option of holding an election under the circumstances amounts, in my opinion, to a plot against the unity of the people, the stability of the nation, and the democratic process. I went there to reiterate that, if the present regime is so stubborn as to go it alone, then either they will obtain a favorable vote — which they will then interpret as a rejection of democracy and a condemnation of political parties — or else the authorities will, at the last minute, decide against holding the elections, arguing that no one would accept the people's choice — which would amount to keeping the current power structure in place. Unless, of course, all of this is actually a pretext for an arrangement between the current regime and the Islamic Salvation Front at the expense of democracy.

[Bouziane] Mr. Hamrouche, there is talk of the possibility that you might stand as a candidate in the presidential election. What is your reaction?

[Hamrouche] What I can say is that the regime has done everything in its power to put up as many obstacles and difficulties as possible in order to stop the credible political parties from subscribing to the idea of having elections. They have done this by refusing any initial political agreement with them, or among them. [end recording]

Decapitated Bodies Found in 'Islamic' Stronghold

NC1608131695 Paris AFP in English 1157 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algiers, Aug 16 (AFP) - Seven decapitated bodies were found in an Islamic fundamenalist stronghold in western Algeria in the latest of a string of massacres targeting civilians, a newspaper reported Wednesday [16 August].

A group of around 20 armed militants stormed the village of Zeddine on Sunday and abducted seven people, the daily EL WATAN said. The attackers slit the captives' throats and then beheaded them, it added.

Zeddine is near the town of Rouina, an hotbed of Islamic fundamentalist activity.

EL WATAN also reported that police defused three car bombs Sunday and Monday in Algiers. They were found outside a cemetery, a local police station and outside a building in a working class neighborhood. Two car bomb blasts last week in Algiers left 18 people injured.

The Algerian press last week also reported a series of gun attacks targetting civilians, which it blamed on Moslem extremists fighting the military-backed government in Algiers.

In one incident, assailants with machine-pistols killed a family of five people in Bouinan, 30 kilometers (20 miles) south of Algiers, after one of them refused to collaborate with the fundamentalists.

In the town of Gydek in western Algeria, gunmen opened fire on guests at a wedding, killing five and leaving several wounded.

Islamic fundamentalists have been fighting the government since elections they were poised to win in 1992 were cancelled. The violence has left an estimated 30,000 people dead.

The government has promised elections by the end of this year. The leader of an Islamic group that supports the voting, Cheikh Mahfoud Nahnah, said Tuesday after a meeting with President Liamine Zeroual that the president is considering holding the election on November 17.

Egypt

Detained 'Terrorist' al-Sharqawi Interviewed

NC1608091895 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Aug 95

[Interview with "terrorist" Muhammad 'Ali al-Sharqawi by two unidentified television presenters; place and date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text][Presenter] What is your name?

[Al-Sharqawi] Muhammad 'Ali al-Sharqawi.

[Presenter] Muhammad, where are you from?

[Al-Sharqawi] From Damietta.

[Presenter] How old are you?

[Al-Sharqawi] Twenty one and a half.

[Presenter) What work do you do?

[Al-Sharqawi] I am a carpenter.

[Presenter] Did you travel to Saudi Arabia? And when?

[Al-Sharqawi] In 1991.

[Presenter] Why did you travel there?

[Al-Sharqawi] For work.

[Presenter] Did you not have a job here? Couldn't you find work here?

[Al-Sharqawi] My circumstances forced me to travel abroad; security reasons.

[Presenter] What kind of circumstances?

[Al-Sharqawi] Security men frequented my place, so I was forced to travel abroad.

[Presenter] Why were security men frequenting you?

[Al-Sharqawi] Because I had a beard and I was with the Islamic groups.

[Presenter] Were you affiliated with those groups?

[Al-Sharqawi] I was affiliated with them.

[Presenter] You were a member of the groups.

[Al-Sharqawi] Yes.

[Presenter] What did you do?

[Al-Sharqawi] We did not do anything in the first days. But after I traveled, I heard about the Damietta incidents, the attack on the officer.

[Presenter] Did you not take part in that attack?

[Al-Sharqawi] I was in Saudi Arabia then.

[Presenter] Who helped you travel to Saudi Arabia?

[Al-Sharqawi] No one.

[Presenter] Did you look for any specific members of the Islamic Group there?

[Al-Sharqawi] Yes. I had the address of a member of the group when I traveled. I went there and stayed with him for some time. He then left for Afghanistan. I stayed...

[Presenter] How long did you stay with him? Six months, one year?

[Al-Sharqawi] No. About two weeks. After that, he introduced me to other people who were leaving for Afghanistan. I did not find a job, so I told them that I could go to Afghanistan.

[Presenter] But where did you stay in Saudi Arabia? Who paid your way, and whom did you live with?

[Al-Sharqawi] I had money, and I also [words indistinct] with them. I stayed for a while in the holy shrine [in Mecca], and when I wanted to travel to Afghanistan, I went to stay with them.

[Presenter] Did you travel to Afghanistan to work or what?

[Al-Sharqawi] No, for jihad.

[Presenter] How long did you stay there?

[Al-Sharqawi] About two and a half years.

[Presenter] From 1991 to 1993.

[Al-Sharqawi] From 1992 to 1994.

[Presenter] Why and when did you leave Afghanistan?

[Al-Sharqawi] I left Afghanistan about a year ago.

[Presenter] Why?

[Al-Sharqawi] The jihad was over, and there was no more training.

[Presenter] What kind of training?

[Al-Sharqawi] Military training.

[Presenter] And then where did you go?

[Al-Sharqawi] I was originally with the Islamic Group. They sent me to Sudan.

[Presenter] Which year was that, 1994?

[Al-Sharqawi] In August 1994.

[Presenter] Was anyone waiting for you there?

[Al-Sharqawi] Yes. I traveled transit from Pakistan to Doha, and from there to Khartoum.

[Presenter] Where did you stay in Khartoum.

[Al-Sharqawi] In Khartoum itself. Members of the group met me at the airport, and then I went to a house in (al- Ghabah) street. I stayed there for a while and then went to the farm.

[Presenter] What is this farm?

[Al-Sharqawi] A large area where there was some farming.

[Presenter] Did you see any Egyptians there?

[Al-Sharqawi] Yes.

[Presenter] What were they doing there?

[Al-Sharqawi] They were all members of the Islamic Group.

[Presenter] What kind of work did they do there.

[Al-Sharqawi] Nothing; they did no work.

[Presenter] Were they just sitting there?

[Al-Sharqawi] Yes.

[Presenter] Did they have any training?

[Al-Sharqawi] There was training on electronic things, detonators.

[Presenter] For what? To bomb what?

[Al-Sharqawi] Detonation circles.

[Presenter] What else?

[Al-Sharqawi] Courses on other things, like forgery and so on.

[Presenter] To forge what? Identity cards, passports?

[Al-Sharqawi] Yes.
[Presenter] Were there weapons in the camp?
[Al-Sharqawi] The camp or the farm?
[Presenter] The farm.
[Al-Sharqawi] There was no training on the use of arms in the farm, but there were some weapons for guard only. All the training was done in Afghanistan.
[Presenter] Which Islamic Group leaders (?visited) you in the farm?
[Al-Sharqawi] Mustafa Hamzah, Haytham [words indistinct].
[Presenter] What did they come for?
[Al-Sharqawi] They came and went. What we knew about them is that they came and left; they did not stay with us.
[Presenter] During the training period, you were trained to carry out operations inside Egypt?
[Al-Sharqawi] Yes.
[Presenter] What is the aim of these operations?
[Al-Sharqawi] To establish an Islamic state.
[Presenter] What kind of operations did you intend to carry out?
[Al-Sharqawi] Attacking tourism and similar targets.
[Presenter] Can you give more details?
[Al-Sharqawi] Tourist places.
[Presenter] What else?
[Al-Sharqawi] Targeting prominent police officers. The aim is to destabilize the regime and establish an Islamic state.
[Presenter] What was your role in these operations?
[Al-Sharqawi] I had no specific role. They told me they would inform me of what to do when I got there [in Egypt].
[Presenter] In other words, they asked you to first come to Cairo.
[Al-Sharqawi] Yes.
[Presenter] When you were inside the camp, were the groups which used to leave to carry out operations and return present?
[Al-Sharqawi] No one left. We were all there.
[Presenter] Regarding the sinful attack on President Mubarak in Addis Ababa, were there members of that terrorist group inside the camp?
[Al-Sharqawi] I read afterward in the newspapers that they carried out this operation.
[Presenter] Did you see them in the farm?
[Al-Sharqawi] Yes. I saw only two whom I recognized from the newspapers? One is called 'Umar al-Masri, his real name is Sharif. The second is Muhammad Siraj. His name there was Fathi.
[Presenter] These names are always...
[Al-Sharqawi] They were pseudonyms.
[Presenter] You were a member of a group which left Sudan and came to Cairo to carry out operations. How did you arrive from Sudan? Which road did you take?
[Al-Sharqawi] Desert roads.
[Presenter] The car which transported you?
[Al-Sharqawi] A Toyota transported us from there to here.
[Presenter] Who helped you?
[Al-Sharqawi] Sudanese.
[Presenter] Was the driver of the vehicle Sudanese?
[Al-Sharqawi] [Answer not heard]
[Presenter] Did you have weapons with you?
[Al-Sharqawi] There were lots of weapons.
[Presenter] In the same vehicle?
[Al-Sharqawi] Yes.
[Presenter] [words indistinct]
[Al-Sharqawi] Kalashnikov and M-16 rifles. If something happened....
[Presenter] If something happend on the road?
[Al-Sharqawi] If something happened on the road, if someone attacked us, or anything else. Besides, sometimes we were hunting deer.
[Presenter] You were expecting someone would stop you?
[Al-Sharaqawi] No, bandits. For examples, many Bedouins are there. Any bandits might intercept us.
[Presenter] All the individuals in the vehicle were trained in weapons use?
[Al-Sharqawi] Yes.
[Presenter] They all knew how to use the weapons?
[Al-Sharqawi] Yes.
[Presenter] Did you have passports with you?
[Al-Sharqawi] What?
[Presenter] Did you have passports with you?
[Al-Sharqawi] No. I had my real passport with me. I don't know if others had passports with them.
[Presenter] Did you have an identity card with you?
[Al-Sharqawi] I had identity cards.
[Presenter] In your name?
[Al-Sharqawi] I had my real identity card and passport. I had a second identity card in the name of Hasan 'Ali Kamil Abu-al- 'Aynayn. I had three other blank cards.
[Presenter] So that you could insert the name you wanted?
[Al-Sharqawi] Yes.
[Presenter] These cards were forged in Sudan?
[Al-Sharqawi] I do not know how they got them.
[Presenter] [words indistinct]
[Al-Sharqawi] They gave them to us in Sudan.
[Presenter] [words indistinct)
[Al-Sharqawi] Mustafa Hamzah brought them to us.
[Presenter] Mustafa Hamzah?
[Al-Sharqawi] If he was not present, he would send them to us with someone.

[Presenter] Who has been giving you assignments?

[Al-Sharqawi] So far no one has given us any assignment.

[Presenter] Who ordered you to enter Egypt.

[Al-Sharqawi] Mustafa Hamzah.

[Presenter] This was an assignment. What was your exact assignment?

[Al-Sharqawi] Let me explain. Mustafa Hamzah used to sit with us. He sat alone with me and told me: I could send you to Egypt. Are you ready? I told him: No problem. After that, he sat with the six of us. He spoke with us.

[Presenter] He sat with each of you alone. He then sat with the six of you?

[Al-Sharqawi] He sat with each of us alone to share his personal problems and to try to solve them. He then sat with the six of us together.

[Presenter] Did he give you money?

[Al-Sharqawi] Yes, he did.

[Presenter] How much?

[Al-Sharqawi] He gave me $2,050, and I had $100 from before.

[Presenter] Who is financing the operation? Did each of you get $2,050?

[Al-Sharqawi] No, they send additional money.

[Presenter] Do they send money regularly? How?

[Al-Sharqawi] Either they leave it somewhere to be picked up or they tell someone to go to a specific place, where he will meet a person (identified by certain features) who will give him the money. Once he gets the money, he must leave and ask no questions.

[Presenter] Where would the money be left?

[Al-Sharqawi] In a cafeteria, for instance.

[Presenter] How, tell me specifically?

[Al-Sharqawi] They once told me to go to Radwan Cafeteria and to carry the magazine ROSE AL-YUSUF and AL-AHRAM. I was told to leave them on the table and that someone would approach me and ask: Are you 'Aziz? My answer would be: Are you Mustafa? That was the signal.

[Presenter] Who told you this?

[Al-Sharqawi] The official told me this.

[Presenter] Who was the official?

[Al-Sharqawi] Ashraf.

[Presenter] Was he the head of the group?

[Al-Sharqawi] Yes, and I was his deputy.

[Presenter] The contacts you received from Mustafa Hamzah from Sudan, how were they made?

[Al-Sharqawi] By phone.

[Presenter] You call or he calls?

[Al-Sharqawi] He does; we do not know any numbers there.

[Presenter] Does he know your address here in Cairo?

[Al-Sharqawi] He did not know anything about me, but Ashraf is the one who was in charge.

[Presenter] What did you do with the money you got?

[Al-Sharqawi] I got an apartment and stayed in it.

[Presenter] Did each one of you stay in a separate apartment?

[Al-Sharqawi] Yes, each in a separate apartment which only he knows the location of.

[Presenter] But Ashraf knows the locations?

[Al-Sharqawi] No, only the apartment holder knows where it is and nobody else, not even Ashraf.

[Presenter] So if Ashraf wanted to tell you something, how did you meet?

[Al-Sharqawi] By appointement. For instance, we agree to meet on a certain date at, say, al-Tahrir Square. If I do not show up at the first meeting, then there is a second meeting. Only two meetings.

[Presenter] And if you miss both?

[Al-Sharqawi] Then contacts can be made by mail. For instance, he can send a letter to a specific post office box.

[Presenter] You mean you agree on a specific post office box?

[Al-Sharqawi] In Khartoum.

[Presenter] So you send the letters to Khartoum?

[Al-Sharqawi] Yes.

[Presenter] So if you miss an appointment you send a letter to...

[Al-Sharqawi, interrupting] To his own post office box in Khartoum.

[Presenter] And who picks up the mail from the post office box?

[Al-Sharqawi] The people there.

[Presenter] Mustafa Hamzah?

[Al-Sharqawi] Anyone of the officials there.

[Presenter] I want to ask you, did you receive military training in Afghanistan?

[Al-Sharqawi] Yes.

[Presenter] What exactly did you learn?

[Al-Sharqawi] Weapons, beginning with pistols and up to tanks.

[Presenter] What kind of weapons?

[Al-Sharqawi] Pistols, Kalashnikovs, M-16's, which I did not see but were in other camps. Antiaircraft weapons and antiarmor weapons, such as RPG's [rocket-propelled grenade]. Antipersonnel weapons, such as mortars, 82-mm and 75-mm weapons.

[Presenter] But you received training on explosives in Sudan?

[Al-Sharqawi] I also received training on many explosives, such as RBX [initials as heard], TNT, C-4 and C-3, and Crotex [name as heard] ropes.

[Presenter] And you wanted to use all these against your country, Egypt?

[Al-Sharqawi] I was not going to use them against my countrymen.

[Presenter] Who were you going to use them against then?

[Al-Sharqawi] Had we received the assignments, we would not have carried them out before a discussion.

[Presenter] Discussion?

[Al-Sharqawi] Would this work or not?

[Presenter] You came from Sudan to implement certain assignments? You were supposed to discuss these assignments with whom?

[Al-Sharqawi] With the one in charge.

[Presenter] With the deputy head of the group? Isn't it?

[Al-Sharqawi] Yes.

[Presenter] You will discuss them with Ashraf?

[Al-Sharqawi] Yes with Ashraf.

[Presenter] You and Ashraf were [words indistinct]. The remainder of the group would implement your orders?

[Al-Sharqawi] When they say these things, they do not name a specific person. They do not tell us to put an explosive device in a public place to target a certain person.

[Presenter] Like whom?

[Al-Sharqawi] Like I told you before, a tourist place or sites of brigades.

[Presenter] [words indistinct] Egyptians, foreigners, and tourists. You know this affects the national economy?

[Al-Sharqawi] As I told you, they only target tourism, they do not target anything else. They also target police and military places.

[Presenter] In other words, they have not yet defined your assignments?

[Al-Sharqawi] Yes.

[Presenter] When you heard about the operations that occurred inside Egypt, didn't this change your mind and keep you away from these groups, especially as you are of such a young age?

[Al-Sharqawi] There were some bad excesses, like the killing of the child Shayma' and the killing of another person in the Red Sea district. These were bad excesses.

[Presenter] Didn't these excesses make you change your mind?

[Al-Sharqawi] If there were excesses, it was by mistake.

[Presenter] They were deliberate attacks, such as the attacks on tourist cars?

[Al-Sharqawi] Yes, these were deliberate attacks?

[Presenter] These were mistakes or not.

[Al-Sharqawi] Yes.

[Presenter] This is a mistake. All these operations did not make you think to keep away from this course?

[Al-Sharqawi] They say the aim of these operations is to establish an Islamic state.

[Presenter] You are 21 years old. What do you know about the Islamic religion?

[Al-Sharqawi] I became committed when I was 16 years old.

[Presenter] You didn't study and read?

[Al-Sharqawi] On the contrary, I always read newspapers.

[Presenter] Newspapers?

[Al-Sharqawi] Yes.

[Presenter] Egypt is or is not an Islamic state?

[Al-Sharqawi] I tell you; they said if it establishes the shari'ah, it will be an Islamic state.

[Presenter] Were there contacts with Sudanese in the farm?

[Al-Sharqawi] There was a Sudanese whose name is Mirghani.

[Presenter] Mirghani?

[Al-Sharqawi] Yes.

[Presenter] For what reason did he come?

[Al-Sharqawi] He used to come and sit with us. He used to work, but I do not know his exact work.

[Presenter] In the farm he was sitting with the leaders?

[Al-Sharqawi] No, he was not always at the farm. He used to come to the farm for one day and then leave. All his work was in Khartoum.

[Presenter] He did not speak to you.

[Al-Sharqawi] No, it was an ordinary visit, but he was not speaking.

[Presenter] An inspection visit?

[Al-Sharqawi] Yes, he used to visit us and then leave like any other visitor.

[Presenter] Others used to visit you?

[Al-Sharqawi] Mustafa Hamzah used to visit us.

[Presenter] He was not staying with you in the farm?

[Al-Sharqawi] No.

[Presenter] Where was he staying?

[Al-Sharqawi] All the leaders were not staying with us. Most of them used to travel continuously. They stayed in Khartoum only to do some work, like assignments. In this case, they would come and stay.

[Presenter] How many Egyptians were in the farm?

[Al-Sharqawi] The number varied. People came and went. The number ranged from 20 to 30.

[Presenter] You have followed a wrong course. You are young. Your family has tried to dissuade you, but it seems you have fallen for deception. Don't you regret the course you have followed?

[Al-Sharqawi] Undoubtedly, there is some repentance.

[Presenter] There is what?

[Al-Sharqawi] Repentance.

Detained 'Terrorist' Sayf Interviewed

NC1608144095 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1920 GMT 15 Aug 95

[Interview with 'Terrorist' 'Ali Qasim Sayf by two unidentified television presenters; place and date not given— recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Presenter] 'Ali Qasim Sayf: Where are you from, 'Ali?

[Sayf] From al-Minya Governorate.
[Presenter] What did you do for a living?
[Sayf] I worked as a teacher and a merchant.
[Presenter] A merchant of what?
[Sayf] Groceries.
[Presenter] What do you teach?
[Sayf] I teach science, the Koran, the prophet's sayings, and the prophet's traditions.
[Presenter] How long did you teach?
[Sayf] Not long.
[Presenter] And after that did you travel abroad?
[Sayf] I travelled to Afghanistan. I traveled to Saudi Arabia first and then to Afghanistan.
[Presenter] How old are you?
[Sayf] Twenty-seven.
[Presenter] Did you not belong to any group?
[Sayf] I belong to the Islamic Group.
[Presenter] Did you meet Egyptians?
[Sayf] Yes.
[Presenter] Were they from the Islamic Group too?
[Sayf] From the Islamic Group and others.
[Presenter] You went, knowing where you were going?
[Sayf] Yes. I was going to Bayt al-Ansar [the House of Advocates]. They took us from Islamabad Airport to Bayt al-Ansar and from there we asked to go to the Islamic Group camp. They took us there.
[Presenter] What is Bayt al-Ansar's affiliation?
[Sayf] The House of Arab advocates, those who advocate jihad.
[Presenter] Did you receive training in the camps there?
[Sayf] Yes.
[Presenter] What kind of training?
[Sayf] In the use of weapons and moving around with weapons.
[Presenter] How long did you stay in Afghanistan?
[Sayf] Approximately two and a half years.
[Presenter] Was your stay there for training only or did you work as well?
[Sayf] No, there was no work. But when it was time to leave, we would go out to work to buy the tickets.
[Presenter] When did you leave Afghanistan?
[Sayf] Around 1992.
[Presenter] And where to?
[Sayf] I went to Saudi Arabia to perform the minor pilgrimage.
[Presenter] And after Saudi Arabia?
[Sayf] I stayed on. I performed the pilgrimage, worked, performed another pilgrimage the following year, which I dedicated to my father, then traveled to Sudan.
[Presenter] Why Sudan in particular?
[Sayf] Originally I planned to go to Bosnia-Herzegovina. From Saudi Arabia we travelled across the border to Yemen and from there to Sudan. Some people contacted us. We had the telephone numbers of some people so that they could collect money and other things.
[Presenter] Who were these people?
[Sayf] Ordinary Saudis whose numbers we had.
[Presenter] You do not know their names?
[Sayf] Abu-Hamzah, Abu-'Umar.
[Presenter] You mean codenames?
[Sayf] Yes. So we contacted them and they told us there was no money available for such purposes. So we had to wait. Anyway, Yemen was better than elsewhere, for they could have arrested us in Saudi Arabia and turned us in. So we waited and...
[Presenter interrupts] How long did you stay in Yemen?
[Sayf] A very short time, one month at most.
[Presenter] And after that?
[Sayf] Someone came and took us to Sudan after processing our papers. From Yemen we travelled to Sudan.
[Presenter] Did you know him, did someone send him, or did you contact him?
[Sayf] Shaykh Abu-Hazim sent him.
[Presenter] Who is Shaykh Abu-Hazim? Is he Mustafa Hamzah?
[Sayf] Yes.
[Presenter] To which group does he belong?
[Sayf] The Islamic Group.

[Presenter] What did you do in Sudan? Who received you and made your accommodation arrangements?

[Sayf] We proceeded to the places they are located and from there to the farm, where we were trained in particular things they wanted to train us in.
[Presenter] What were these things?
[Sayf] How to forge official documents and how to prepare explosives. That is all.
[Presenter] Were there other lectures?
[Sayf] No, no lectures.
[Presenter] Or other weapons?
[Sayf] No.
[Presenter] Was the farm exclusive to Egyptians or were other nationalities there?
[Sayf] Egyptians only.

[Presenter] Who was financing the farm, the people there, and the training?
[Sayf] These are things we do not know about.
[Presenter] Which leaders went to the farm?
[Sayf] Only Mustafa Hamzah.
[Presenter] How long did you stay in Sudan?
[Sayf] Approximately four months.
[Presenter] And after that? Were you instructed to go to Cairo?
[Sayf] Yes. They said we should go to Cairo because there was no room any longer in Sudan.
[Presenter] We are not discussing room. Did you leave with specific assignments?
[Sayf] There were no assignments. Basically I do not know my way around Cairo very well. I went there primarily to familiarize myself with the places but I did not know of any assignments.
[Presenter] How many people are in your group?
[Sayf] Six people.
[Presenter] Who was the leader?
[Sayf] I did not know at first but now it seems it is Ashraf.

[Presenter] How did you enter?

[Sayf] We entered by the desert road.
[Presenter] What car, how did you come, who drove the car, who extended facilities to you?
[Sayf] There are no facilities for these things. There are no official papers or anything of this sort. We left. They arranged things. We left. A car took us.
[Presenter] Who was the driver?
[Sayf] An ordinary driver. We did not know him. He was non-Egyptian. He could have been Sudanese or another nationality, but not Egyptian.
[Presenter] Did you have money with you?
[Sayf] They gave me $1,000 but I do not know how much others got.
[Presenter] The $1,000 was enough?
[Sayf] Enough to rent an apartment. I needed more money afterward.
[Presenter] Who gave you the money?
[Sayf] Ashraf gave me it when I met him.
[Presenter] He gave you it. On what basis?
[Sayf] He gave me it to rent an apartment, stay in it, live normally, and interfere with no one. I would live normally and avoid problems.
[Presenter] But you said they were training you in particular things.
[Sayf] On the basis that I would sit still and there would be no problem. No one would know me.
[Presenter] Waiting?
[Sayf] Awaiting an assignment, no particular assignment. What kind of assignment? Only God knows.
[Presenter] But when you arrived, were the assignments not supposed to be clear, were not you asked to carry out particular operations?
[Sayf] Yes, we came to Egypt to carry out operations but we did not know about them in advance.
[Presenter] Do the assignments usually reach you after you arrive?
[Sayf] I do not know of such a thing.
[Presenter] Was this your first time carrying out operations?
[Sayf] The first time I came to Egypt. I did not know that assingnments would come later, who would convey them, or what their nature would be.
[Presenter] Did you meet with the members of the group?
[Sayf] My liaison was with Ashraf.
[Presenter] What did Ashraf tell you?
[Sayf] He inquired about my situation, what I did, whether I rented an apartment, whether I was comfortable, whether I needed money. We would walk in the streets. That was all.
[Presenter] As for the people who carried out the attack in Addis Ababa and whose pictures were published in the newspapers, do you know any of them?
[Sayf] I only know one of them, 'Umar, whose picture appeared in AL-AHRAM.
[Presenter] Where did you see him?
[Sayf] I saw him there in Afghanistan.
[Presenter] You did not see him in Sudan?
[Sayf] When I was in Sudan I did not see him there.
[Presenter] Did you expect you would be arrested?
[Sayf] Any one of us expected such a thing.
[Presenter] This identity card, is it yours or is it forged?
[Sayf] No, it is another card in another pseudonym.
[Presenter] After you heard about incidents and bombings, did this not arouse your national feeling? You were here during the Addis Ababa incident?
[Sayf] Yes.
[Presenter] Did your national feeling and conscience not alert you to reject these acts?
[Sayf] Undoubtedly, yes.
[Presenter] Did you not try to do something?
[Sayf] What could I do? I was liable to be arrested at any time.
[Presenter] Why did you not hand yourself over?
[Sayf] Hand myself over? Where? There is no use in handing myself over.
[Presenter] Who told you this? The Egyptian Government declared at one time...
[Sayf interrupts] That was long ago, when we were in Afghanistan.
[Presenter] What kind of training did you receive in Afghanistan?

[Sayf] Training in Afghanistan was in the use of light and heavy weapons.

[Presenter] Training in all these kinds of weapons? In the use of what weapons did you train?

[Sayf] I was trained in the use of light weapons, like the Kalashnikov, [words indistinct], RPG, and mortar.
[Presenter] What kind of work were you asked to do?
[Sayf] It was not specified.
[Presenter] Which weapons can you use?
[Sayf] I can use light weapons, like the Kalashnikov.
[Presenter] In Sudan, what kind of work were you doing when you were on the farm?
[Sayf] When I was on the farm, I told you, there was only training in some...
[Presenter interrupts] You were forging...
[Sayf interrupts] No, I was not forging. I only took a week's course in forging [papers] and detonating explosives.
[Presenter] Forging what precisely?
[Sayf] Forging an identity card, putting a picture on it, and inserting a name. I was not working day and night on this.
[Presenter] Were you trained in secret communications?
[Sayf] No.
[Presenter] When you met members of the group who arrived in Cairo, how did you meet them? It was not supposed to be a public meeting.
[Sayf] Initially I was cautious. Afterward I knew who I was meeting and who was meeting me. I would agree to meet him in a particular place. He would come to the place. We would meet and before he left we would agree on where we would next meet.
[Presenter] Was it not possible that they would send you another person?
[Sayf] No, this has never happened to me.
[Presenter] After some of the operations carried out by the Islamic groups, did you not feel contrition over joining these groups?
[Sayf] No.
[Presenter] Does this mean you approve of the bombing operations, the attacks on tourism, and the killing of children?
[Sayf]I have heard of all these things but not the way you put them. Jurisprudence and shari'ah affairs have their sources of reference but not in the way you mentioned.
[Presenter] Do you believe in violence?
[Sayf] I do not believe in violence. Islam does not preach violence.

Columnist Views Iraqi Defections, U.S. Efforts

NC1708040195 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
13 Aug 95 p 10

[From the "Close-Up" column: "An Old Arab Tale" by Salamah Ahmad Salamah]

[FBIS Translated Text] The sudden crack at the top of the ruling regime in Iraq has whetted the appetite of many people to predict that the fall of Saddam and his ruling clique is near. All the members of this clique are close relatives, members of his family and clan, and some worn-out leaders, remnants of the Ba'th Party who have linked their future with Saddam's. The story of the conflict within Saddam's family, the division, and the defection of half the family to Jordan and their request for asylum, in all its sensational details, comes late in the 20th century. But it looks like an old Arab tale of a power struggle among brothers and within a family, an episode from history taking place in modern times. Where else might such a thing happen but the Arab world?

More important is that those who bet on the fall of Saddam Husayn regime's might be acting hastily. They wagered that Saddam Husayn's regime would crumble through the opposition forces inside and outside Iraq. The opposition forces have not achieved their goal, because of the iron-fist rule Saddam wields and imposes on the ruling minority and his reliance on a small circle of relatives and in-laws. This small ruling circle, which has an interest in maintaining the status quo, is linked by a close network of kinship. The core of this circle is Saddam's sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, and first cousins. This intricate structure made penetration of the authority very difficult. Penetration of the Iraqi regime is possible only if it comes from inside this circle.

For five years the United States has been trying every possible means to destabilize the Iraqi regime through funding and training of the Iraqi opposition forces, which are "motivated" from outside, but to no avail. I am not one of those who believe that the collapse at the top of power in Baghdad was engineered by the United States. It is in the nature of things that such a regime should carry the seeds of its demise within itself. It might be premature to predict that the fall of Saddam and his clique is near. It might take time for the contradictions within the clan to reach the point of explosion and no return.

The United States has been quick to use what happened in Baghdad, and President Clinton was quick to wake from his "international slumber" to warn Iraq against any threat to Jordan and its security. We very much doubt that the Iraqi regime would threaten Jordan, even though Saddam's agents may try to assassinate his sons-in-law before they divulge secrets and before they are interrogated by CIA agents. Asylum in Jordan or elsewhere has a price that will not be paid by Saddam and his regime alone; it will also be paid by the Iraqi people and the whole Arab nation—the unpaid portion of the Gulf war bill.

Israel Blamed for Lack of Progress in Peace Talks

NC1608151195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 16 Aug 95

[Commentary by 'Atif 'Umar: "The Hidden Hands Hampering Peace Efforts"]

[FBIS Translated Text] No one disagrees that the peace process in the Middle East and the efforts exerted by some international forces interested in stability in the region clash occasionally with the various obstacles that hamper a permanent and stable peace in the region.

International efforts stop and Arab attempts stumble over these obstacles and after every reckless attempt by the Israeli side represented in the idiotic behavior of the Jewish settlers whom Israel continues to bring in from around the globe or the reactions of the Palestinian people who are living in their territories, which are occupied. [as heard] These efforts are all trying to establish a peace with the Israeli side, which now occupies the land and declares it will not abandon it.

Consider statements carried in the Israeli newspaper THE JERUSALEM POST, citing Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin saying that Israel will adhere to full control over the whole of Jerusalem as its capital as well as the Jordan Valley and that under no circumstance will it return to the 1967 borders. Perhaps these statements and their violation of the peace agreement signed in Oslo and Cairo between the Palestinian and the Israeli sides reveal one aspect of the future conditions in the Middle East region.

The world is competing to provide financial support to Jewish settlers so that they can emigrate to Israel. Through international support and backing, settlements are being set up for them in the occupied territories, which are overpopulated in the first place by their Arab residents, particularly following the chopping-up these territories have undergone on the pretext of security requirements, which have no limit and dimensions that are not yet clear.

Amid this very difficult atmosphere, talks are taking place between the Israeli Government, which clearly announced that it will not concede the territory it has occupied, and the Palestinian Authority, which is now in an unenviable position before the masses and the Palestinian factions. These masses and factions are divided between supporters, who have reasons for their support, and opposers, who have many reasons for opposing, particularly after all the evidence and events have shown that there are hidden hands working behind the scenes to hamper the articles and stages over which agreement has been reached and the resulting extension of all the dates set by Israel for starting the second stage of the agreement.

Political analysts do not disagree that stalling the peace process in the region works in favor of the Israelis right now, particularly since this is linked with the Israeli Government's success in fully exploiting the current international circumstances and Arab conflicts that erupted after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the negative repercussions of this invasion on the political, economic, and internal conditions in most Arab countries. But you cannot confirm that these conditions will continue forever. Reaching a comprehensive peace based on just principles between the Israelis and the Palestinians is the only thing toward which every attempt—international or Arab—should be moving.

With this understanding in mind, the political leadership in Egypt has stated that true peace, in its expanded meaning, can only proceed by providing security, peace, and a right to a stable life for both the Israeli and the Palestinian peoples. All Egyptian efforts, which started after the partition decision of 1947, have moved in this direction out of their concern for peace and stability and to avert the terrible dangers the Middle East region and the world could be exposed to if we open the doors to these hidden hands moving in the dark to thwart attempts at reaching agreement and understanding between the Palestinians and the Israelis, or if we believe that oppressing and besieging a whole people is something that can be accepted or exaggerated. We are on the threshold of a new century with new principles, values, and beliefs. Their effect on humanity cannot be prophesied except by saying that they will contradict the policy of the status quo, which rules and controls some minds.

Musa on Bosnia Conference, 1956 POW's

NC1608152895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has announced that Egypt backs Yemen's call to hold a meeting of Islamic foreign ministers to discuss Bosnia-Herzegovina and approves of holding it in Sanaa. He declared that Egypt would attend such a meeting.

Musa said events dictate the need for an effective conference to discuss the rapid developments, noting that it is also necessary to explore the Bosnian Government's stance on these developments and its response to any fresh proposals. [passage omitted]

Musa stressed the need to maintain Bosnia-Herzegovina as an independent state based on principles of fairness and justice, while taking into account the rights of the Muslim majority.

Commenting on Egyptian POW's who were killed in Israel in 1956, 'Amr Musa said Egypt has received preliminary reports on this issue and has formally raised it with the Israeli authorities. He noted that the Israeli Government's current measures on the issue are in response to a formal Egyptian request.

He said Egypt is following up on this issue, which is also being actively pursued by the Israeli Government.

Egypt Moves To Introduce 'Modern Life' to Sudan

NC1608155495 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
13 Aug 95 p 4

[From "The Brothers Page"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The nomads of Hala'ib have begun to enjoy modern life, benefiting from Egypt's goal to affirm its sovereignty over this desert area, which is also claimed by Sudan.

Police Major General 'Abd-al-Hamid Siraj al-Din, head of the Hala'ib Local Council, said: Over the past three years we have built 810 housing units in the following three major areas of Hala'ib: Bi'r Shalatayn, Abu Ramad, and Hala'ib. He added: We have also built four desalination plants with a daily production of 600 cubic meters of pure water and a network of water reservoirs. Water tankers are distributing drinking water on a daily basis, he added.

Continuing, Maj. Gen. Siraj al-Din said: The council also constructed three 24-hour 2-megawatt power stations. A local radio station airs programs during 12 hours of daily transmission. The inhabitants receive Egyptian television intermittently. The authorities are also offering free flour, oil, sugar, and tea, he said.

Libya

Unity: U.S. Moves 'Direct Threat' to Arab Nation

LD1608213995 Tripoli Libyan Television Network
in Arabic 1930 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] JANA has announced that the secretariat of the General People's Committee for Unity has sent an urgent memorandum to the general secretariat of the Arab League, calling for the Arab Joint Defense Council to be speedily convened in implementation of Article 6 of the league's Charter and the Arab Joint Defense Pact, particularly the provisions of Articles 2 and 3. These consider that any act of aggression against any Arab state constitutes aggression against all these states, and that it is the joint defense council's legitimate individual and collective right to defend its entity, to take immediate measures to confront any unexpected danger or sudden international situation that gives rise to fear, and to begin to coordinate its plans and endeavors in taking the protective and defensive measures required by the situation.

In conformity with this, the general secretariat of the General People's Committee for Unity has called for an immediate meeting of the Arab Joint Defense Council, as necessitated by American moves and provocations, the moving of its aircraft carriers in the Mediterranean, the Red Sea, and the Arabian Gulf, and the warnings of the American defense secretary that the United States would strike at Iraq on the pretext of movements which Jordan has announced to be untrue.

This confirms that the United States is continuing its program against Iraq, whose territory has been divided, whose airspace has been violated, and whose military capabilities have been destroyed.

The secretariat of the General People's Committee for Unity has made it clear that these moves are a danger to the collective security of the Arab nation and pose a direct threat to the independence and sovereignty of Arab countries. This is accompanied by the bragging of the Israelis, who announce massacres in which a large number of Egyptian families were killed during the 1956 war and which constitute a flagrant violation of international charters, particularly the Geneva Convention. This bragging is a humilitation to the honor of every Arab.

At a time when the West supports the Israelis because they are considered to be the victims of Nazism, we find that the West does not move at all on what Arab Egyptian prisoners were exposed to, by declaring this horrible act a crime and standing up for the rights of these prisoners who were murdered at the hands of Israeli barbarians.

The secretariat of the General People's Committee for Unity finds itself forced to declare that this is the last opportunity for the Arabs to put into concrete form what they agreed upon in their charters and agreements.

Sudan

Government Celebration Marks Signing of Decree

EA1608125095 Khartoum SUNA in English
1047 GMT 16 Aug 95

[All sentences as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, 16 Aug (SUNA) — The federal government bureau held Sunday [13 August] a celebration marking singing into law the 12th Constitutional Decree organizing the federal rule by president of the republic General al-Bashir. The decree is considered a real legislative break through in handing over power to the people.

In the meantime, the Transitional National Assembly, TNA, during its 4th session, approved the decree, asserting the leading role played by the federal government bureau in consolidating the pillars of the federal rule in the Sudan, supporting concepts of the decentralized government, facilitating the process of administration in the country and broadening the scope of popular participation in government.

The decree aims at governing the loopholes experienced in the previous regulations and legislations of local government in the past in a view to enabling local institutions to effectively contribute to political and economic development processes.

The decree has specified federal powers, which included among others public security unified police forces, foreign relations, judiciary besides other powers related to Sudan's international borders and its financial policies.

The decree stipulated the powers of the state governments including their administration and issues pertinent to their development in health, education, transportation and communications fields and other public service utilities. More over, the decree paid due attention to the joint [incomplete as received].

The decree stipulated that states shall not exercise any powers on federal constitutional institutions and occupiers of federal constitutional posts.

President al-Bashir, following the signing of the decree said that the Sudan Federal Government experience is considered a unique one all over the Arab world.

He asserted that by issuing the 12th Constitutional Decree the federal government had transferred many of its powers to the state government in a view to consolidating the decentralized government system in the country. He went on to say that the government will follow up implementation of the decree to create a comprehensive system of government Abdalla Hassan Ahmed have commended the decree, saying that [incomplete as received].

Oppositionist: Reshuffle To Show NIF in Control

NC1608162495 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1424 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Aug (MENA)—Salah Jalal, a member of the political bureau of the Sudanese opposition al-Ummah Party, has stated that the recent cabinet reshuffle in Sudan was a fresh demonstration that the National Islamic Front [NIF] holds the key to power in the country.

Jalal told MENA today that the appointment of Bakri Hasan Salih as interior minister, the appointment of Salah Karrar to the presidential council, the removal of Dr. Nafi' 'Ali Nafi' from his post as director of foreign security, and the appointment of the physician Muhammad Khayr as minister of administrative reform give the impression that Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir has become a president with real powers. But this is not true. He explained that every nominal reshuffle of posts in Sudan is followed by a real NIF assumption of control over bodies such as the security agencies, particularly the domestic security apparatus, which is now headed by a prominent NIF military official.

Jalal added that, according to the information available, the NIF has decided that the revolution security apparatus should adopt measures to defend the regime against foreign conspiracies.

He explained that the appointment of Major General al-Fatih 'Urwah as minister of state at the Defense Ministry was an act of courtesy to him, because he already knows many secrets about the regime's foreign plots and therefore must be appeased for security reasons. He noted that this is particularly important, as 'Urwah is suspected of involvement in the attempt on President Husni Mubarak's life in Addis Ababa. He is also considered a friend of Lt. Gen. al- Bashir.

The Sudanese oppositionist noted that the Sudanese regime has tried to give the impression that the recent reshuffle was carried out at the expense of the NIF. But this is not true.

Jalal said the reshuffle is an attempt to remarket the regime on the domestic and foreign fronts, particularly in the ranks of the Armed Forces.

Opposition Official on Security, Cabinet Reshuffle

NC1708074995 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic
0510 GMT 17 Aug 95

[Telephone interview with Ahmad 'Uqayl, representative of the Sudanese Ummah Party in Western Europe, in London, by Shihatah Abu- al-Majd, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Abu-al-Majd] Mr. Ahmad 'Uqayl, welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

['Uqayl] Thank you. This is a good opportunity for me to talk to the Voice of the Arabs and explain some circumstances related to Egyptian-Sudanese relations and the practices of the Sudanese regime since it came to power.

[Abu-al-Majd] The Sudanese regime, following its criminal treachery, and proven involvement in planning the sinful attack against President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa, made major changes in its security apparatus and in the cabinet. What are the regime's objectives for this change after the disclosure of its involvement in the attempt on Mubarak and in other operations?

['Uqayl] I believe the security changes and the cabinet reshuffle were an attempt to redistribute roles and divide responsibilities to suggest to the Sudanese, and to the Arab people in general, that there was a change in the regime's policies. But I think that the Sudanese regime, the regime of the National Islamic Front [NIF], is still the same, with the same practices, objectives, and designs. The new appointees, replacing people who were transferred to other positions, are the same cadres and leaders of the NIF. The regime only wanted to change face, but there will generally be no change in policies or practices. From the political point of view, the regime wanted to suggest to the Arab world and African people that it changed its security apparatus, trying to blame certain people for what was done in the name of the Sudanese security agencies. But I think the same policies will continue, and there will be no change in the conduct and ways of the government. [passage omitted]

National Radio Reports on Split in Rebel Movement

EA1608212095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The acuteness of differences between the rebel factions that are engaged in internecine fighting has been aggravated as the rebel William Nyuon announced the dismissal of the rebel Riak Machar from the leadership of the group that calls itself the South Sudan Secession Movement. He has announced the formation of a new transitional council. He accused Riak Machar of being behind the present conflicts, and of standing against the unification of those factions. A statement issued by William Nyuon's group in Nairobi said that there is a leadership crisis being experienced by this group. He called for a halt to the fighting going on between them in the Lau and Fangak areas.

Meanwhile, the rebel Riak Machar has declared that William Nyuon staged an abortive coup against him and that he is still the leader of the movement.

The relief agencies working in the south have declared that this new split and the battles between the two fighting factions constitute an obstacle to the performance of their work in the required manner.

Opposition Figure Reports New 'Terrorist' Camps

NC1608141695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1320 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Aug (MENA)—Muhammad al- Mu'tasim Hakim, the information official in the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party, stated today that the confessions by five terrorists sent by Sudan to perpetrate terrorist crimes in Egypt confirm the Sudanese opposition's claim that the Sudanese regime was involved in terrorist acts in Egypt and elsewhere in Africa.

He told MENA that three new terrorist camps were recently established in Sudan and were supervised by Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the National Islamic Front, to prepare for new terrorist attacks in various countries.

Hakim said the first camp is in Fan and trains members of the Eritrean jihad group. The Sudanese regime lured Eritrean refugees from UN camps in central and eastern Sudan to receive training at the camp.

Hakim said the second camp is near the city of Port Sudan. People receiving training there want to overthrow the government of Ethiopian President Meles Zinawi. The third camp is the "Egyptian" camp and lies near Khartoum. It formerly trained the Afghan Arabs [Arabs who helped the Afghans in their fight against the Soviets]. It is financed by fundamentalist groups whose members live in Western Europe.

Bahrain

Amir Pardons 150 Held in Connection With Riots

JN1608202295 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 16 Aug (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, has graciously issued an amiri decree pardoning 150 persons held in connection with the recent riots in Bahrain.

The Interior Ministry took the legal and administrative procedures to release them according to his highness the amir's noble gesture, which reflects the spirit of tolerance of his highness the amir and his wise government. It also reflects the amir's concern for the future of his children, giving them a chance to return to the right path to work in the service of the homeland and contribute to advancing the march of construction and development.

The families of the released persons expressed great appreciation and gratitude for his highness the amir of the country and his wise government for this royal noble gesture, which reflects his highness's generosity and noble feelings toward the one family of the people of Bahrain.

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Welcomes Jordan Move on Relations

MM1608151395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Aug 95 p 4

[Report by Ghunaym Muhammad al-Mutayri: "Sabah al-Ahmad Talks of Progress in Relations Between Kuwait and Jordan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, stressed in an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that Kuwait "will not rest until its prisoners return from Iraqi jails."

Shaykh Sabah added: "Iraq must comply with all the UN resolutions with regard to revealing the mass-destruction weapons or the fate of the Kuwaiti and Arab prisoners captured inside Kuwaiti territory during the Iraqi occupation."

The Kuwaiti foreign minister called on the Arab states seeking to restore their relations with Kuwait to "exert pressure on the Iraqi regime to release the prisoners."

On Jordanian Foreign Minister al-Kabariti's contacts with the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Amman, Shaykh Sabah said: "We appreciate that cordial initiative. I have entrusted the charge d'affaires at the Kuwaiti Embassy to meet with Minister al-Kabariti to thank him for this initiative and to call on him to urge the Iraqi official [Husayn Kamil Hasan] to reveal the fate of the prisoners and hostages." The Kuwaiti foreign minister expressed his hope that "a lot of progress will occur in relations between Kuwait and Jordan in the coming days for the sake of the two peoples' good." Shaykh Sabah described relations with Jordan as "alive, and not cut off. Everyone knows that Kuwait has an embassy in the Jordanian capital. It has not been closed despite the circumstances that Kuwaiti went through during the Iraqi occupation."

On the situation in Iraq and the industry minister's defection, he said: "We in Kuwait are following the issue with utmost interest until matters are clear."

Concluding, he said: "The Kuwaiti Government and people hope that the coming days will bring good news about the release of the Kuwaiti prisoners."

In Amman, al-Kabariti yesterday confirmed that he will meet with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad 20 September on the sidelines of the Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo.

In a statement to journalists al-Kabariti pointed out that there are contacts between him and Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad with a view to "normalizing relations between Jordan and Kuwait."

Saudi Arabia

Execution 'New Phase' in Ties With Opposition

MM1708092795 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 15 Aug 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Saudi Opposition Nearing Circle of Armed Violence After Execution of One of Its Members"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—The unexpected announcement by the Saudi Government of the execution of a Saudi national named 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Hadif, who was charged with the attempted murder of an intelligence officer by throwing a caustic substance over him, is a new phase in its relationship with the Islamic opposition, characterized by violence, whereas it had confined itself during the previous stages to political work only, with all that this entails of statements, leaflets, and press statements.

The official government statement issued by the Foreign Ministry mentioned the seizure of weapons and provocative operations carried out by the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights [CDLR] headed by Dr. Muhammad al-Mas'ari, a refugee in London. This is the first official admission of any tangible part played by the CDLR inside the country, after Saudi officials had downplayed its importance and denied that it had any influence within [the country].

The opposition has declared al-Hadif the first "martyr" of its ranks, defending what it considers a jihad to put an end to the illegitimate violations committed by the regime, and said that three of the people given a prison sentence were in fact prisoners when the incident took place.

What is remarkable in this affair is that the organization dared to spray acid on an intelligence officer known for his hatred of the Islamists and his inventiveness in harming and torturing them during and after incarceration. The intention was therefore to intimidate other officers to prevent them from acting similarly in the future. The Saudi Government carried out the execution of citizen al-Hadif, a native of the Riyadh area, as a deterrent to others who might think of engaging in similar attempts in the future. What was unexpected was that the Saudi media were asked to report it in their news bulletins and publish it on the front pages of their newspapers.

It may be premature to say that acts of violence undertaken by Muslim extremists in Egypt and Algeria are on the verge of moving to the Kingdom. It appears however, that the Kingdom is not immune to such acts despite its conforming to the Islamic Shari'ah and taking a leadership role in supporting Islamic movements throughout the Arab world at the height of their struggle against socialist and nationalist expansion in the region during the sixties and seventies.

Those in the know say that a rift occurred between moderates and extremists in the Islamic movement opposing the ruling regime in Saudi Arabia, caused by the extremists' impatience for change and their disappointment at the failure of peaceful political work to produce any result in the country including the release of the detained preachers who number more than 200, amongst them the two shaykhs Salman al-'Awdah and Safar al-Hawali. A source close to the Islamic movement in Saudi Arabia said that the extremists, mostly enthusiastic young people, have been exerting pressure for a long while, urging that armed violence be resorted to, in order to attract attention to the seriousness of the situation and to deprive the regime of its most important weapon, the weapon of safety and security paraded at all occasions.

The statement issued in London by the CDLR on the occasion of the carrying out of the death sentence on al-Hadif accused the regime of spilling blood, warned of the dire consequences resulting from this, and laid on it the responsibility of these consequences.

A quick reading of this statement implies that there existed a truce in the past which is just over, and that a new phase of confrontation is about to begin. It would be difficult to determine when it will start and whether there is any coordination between the CDLR and the Advice Committee headed by Usama Bin Ladin. We know that Bin Ladin issued a virulent statement criticizing the last ministerial changes and demanded the resignation of all prominent members of the government because of their noncompliance with the Shari'ah.

Experts in Saudi affairs say that any coordination with Bin Ladin will be effective, because of his first-hand experience in the Afghan jihad, which was lauded in the Saudi press when the Riyadh government led the way in supporting the Afghan jihad.

Envoy to Turkey Rejects Protest on Death Sentences

LD1508212495 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
1853 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ankara, 15 Aug (SPA) — Saudi Ambassador to Turkey Naji al-Mufti has said that Saudi Arabia will not submit to any pressure aimed at changing a religious sentence because of the wishes of some parties.

In a statement to SPA, he added that the protests of some parties against the execution by Saudi authorities of some of these countries' nationals because of drug trafficking will have no impact on continuing to implement the religious sentence applied in Saudi Arabia.

He pointed out that these sentences are carried out on both citizens and residents without exception, and that there is no reason for some people to protest.

Jordanian Foreign Minister on Official Visit

Comments on Relations, Iraq

JN1708105295 Amman Radio Jordan Network
in Arabic 1100 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince of the sister Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, received Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

The meeting dealt with relations between the two sister countries and the means of activating joint Arab action to serve the higher Arab interests.

In statements to the radio, al-Kabariti said he will meet with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, this afternoon to convey a message from his brother His Majesty King Husayn. The message deals with bilateral relations.

Al-Kabariti said: Jordanian-Saudi relations have always been an important and basic pillar in the structure of inter-Arab relations over long decades.

In a meeting with Saudi media representatives this morning, he said: Relations between the two sister countries are urgently needed to form a hard and good nucleus for working out a clear Arab and regional strategy that is fortified against dangers and all possibilities. All aspects of cooperation, integration, and consultation should be institutionalized in line with facts and accelerating changes that require a serious endeavor, more than at any time in the past, to unite ranks.

Al-Kabariti added: The summit meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, will be decided by His Majesty king Husayn and the custodian of the holy mosques. He noted: Coordination is underway on the highest levels. Balanced and moderate common positions and identical viewpoints on pan-Arab and strategic issues have been a major characteristic of relations between the two great leaders throughout long years.

He said he hoped that all of this would be restored and enhanced. He stressed that Arab integration, security, and stability are a fact that cannot be ignored. He noted: All events that occur in each Arab country and the Arab homeland represent a vital and strategic dimension for our two countries. Naturally, we are concerned for the tragedy of the Iraqi people, the dangers that might be posed by its continuation, its serious repercussions on Iraq's territorial integrity and sovereignty, and the impact of this on the overall pan-Arab security. We are equally concerned about the Arab character of Palestine and the United Arab Emirates Arab islands and the stability of every Arab country.

Meets With Crown Prince

LD1608135095 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] HRH Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister and commander of the national guard, received today in his office at the Royal Court in Salam Palace the Jordanian foreign minister, 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, and his accompanying delegation. [passage omitted] Al-Kabariti arrived in Saudi Arabia earlier. [passage omitted]

Holds Meeting With Foreign Minister

JN1608184595 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti held a second round of talks today with His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister, in which they resumed yesterday's talks between the two sides.

The Jordanian and Saudi sides have reiterated their eagerness to continue the political dialogue on all issues of interest to the two fraternal countries and on the efforts being made to revive solidarity and unity of Arab ranks.

Received by King Fahd

JN1608192895 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, now visiting Saudi Arabia, met in Jeddah tonight with the Saudi monarch, King Fahd. Al-Kabariti carried a letter to the Saudi monarch from His Majesty King Husayn dealing with bilateral ties between the two countries. [passage omitted]

More on Meeting With King

JN1708070095 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Concluding two days of talks that centered on relations between the two sister countries, Jordan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and activating joint Arab action, Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti met with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, at al-Salam Palace in Jeddah yesterday. Al-Kabariti handed the custodian of the two holy mosques a written letter from His Majesty King Husayn dealing with relations between the two sister countries and the means of boosting them in all areas.

In a press statement following the meeting, al-Kabariti said: We were honorably asked by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, to relay a reply message to his brother His Majesty King Husayn. He added that talks were excellent and indicated the deep-rooted fraternal relations. He stressed that relations between the two fraternal countries are now gearing toward cooperation and solidarity. He noted that the forthcoming days will bring about further coordination and consultations. He praised the unrelenting efforts undertaken by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal to enhance fraternal relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. [passage omitted]

Concludes Visit

LD1708093795 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0815 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 17 August 95—His Excellency 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, foreign minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and the accompanying delegation left Jeddah this morning after a visit to the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

Yemen

*Court Shuts Down Opposition Party Paper

95LH0244C London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Jul 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Sanaa—The Yemeni Information Ministry has informed the president of the appeals' court in Sanaa that it is unable to implement the court's order to allow the AL-SHURI newspaper, the mouthpiece of the opposition Popular Forces Union Party, to resume publication. The ministry justified its rejection by saying that "the party was suspended by an order of the chairman of the parties affairs committee."

Information Ministry Under Secretary Mathar Ahmad Taqiy sent a memorandum to the appeals court president in which he said that because the party has been suspended, its newspaper should also be suspended. The court president had asked the Information Ministry to implement the press and publications' law after the publishers of AL-SHURI complained that the Information Ministry had refused to allow them to print the latest edition of the newspaper, according to a decision made by the minister for legal affairs and the chairman of the parties affairs committee to close the Popular Forces Union Party's headquarters in Sanaa and its branches in Yemen and to suspend the publication of the party's newspaper.

AL-SHURI's Chief Editor 'Abdallah Sa'd Muhammad told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that if the Information Ministry persists in its refusal to apply the press and publications' law and deal with us on its basis, we will be forced to print the newspaper abroad, even if this entails "a return to underground activity."

Regarding the differences that broke out between the leadership of the Popular Forces Union Party and former leading party member 'Abdallah Naji al-Qawsi, party sources said that some shaykhs from the al-Hadda' clan arrived at the party headquarters the day before yesterday. They came on behalf of al-Qawsi, who is a member of that clan. They wanted to slaughter 12 bulls, eight of them as an apology for opening fire at the party headquarters the week before last and four as an apology on behalf of al-Qawsi for his actions against the party leadership. The party leadership accepted the apology and considered the issue between the party and al-Qawsi as closed.

Al-Qawsi has been a leading member of the Popular Forces Union Party, led by Ibrahim al-Wazir, who has been living outside Yemen for several years. According to some reports, al-Qawsi resigned from the party. Other reports, however, said that he was dismissed because he wanted to split the party and establish a separate movement opposed to al-Wazir. Apparently, he failed in his attempt and eventually had to apologize, as party sources said.

New Oil Discovery Reported East of Shabwah

JN1608190395 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] (Jean-Pierre de Claire), director general of the French Total Company operating in our country, has announced a new oil discovery in (?Wadi Khurayba) No. 1 discovery well in the company's concession zone in sector No. 10 to the east of Shabwah.

He said oil flows from this well at a rate of 1,459 barrels a day.

In statements published by the Economic Bulletin of the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, SABA, de Claire said this result is only experimental and that the commercial significance of the well will be determined at the end of this week after assessing the final results.

He also said this experimental result was taken over a period of four hours, and that the well is 2,554 meters deep.

Story of Power Struggle, Defections Detailed

JN1608083995 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 16 Aug 95 p 5

[Report by the Arab affairs editor]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a step that has surprised the whole world and reshuffled all the cards, General Husayn Kamil Hasan, the man in possession of military secrets and private information, arrived in Amman, along with his brother, Colonel Saddam Kamil, the official who had direct responsibility for the security of the Iraqi president and was commander of his special guard. Their wives Raghad and Rana, daughters of President Saddam, also arrived with them. The escape of President Saddam's daughters has dealt a painful blow to their father. Eyewitnesses said their escape made the Iraqi president cry in front of the audience when he was informed about his daughters' defection to Amman.

What happened in Baghdad? What is the truth of the matter? Why did Husayn Kamil hasten to escape? What happened on the Monday of bullets at the Republican Palace? This is what we will try to answer.

Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan began his military career only as a soldier before he joined a six-month military course from which he graduated as an officer in the protection team of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, like many officers who succeeded in receiving quick promotions in military ranks such as Sabah Mirza, Arshad Yasin, 'Abid Hamid Humud, and others.

Second Lieutenant Husayn Kamil was able to gain the satisfaction and confidence of Saddam Husayn during the early days of the Iraq-Iran war. President Saddam Husayn began to assign him to several dangerous and special missions in which Husayn Kamil proved great ability to recruit a large number of Iraqi scientists and engineers and to make them work at Iraqi weapons factories in extraordinary circumstances. This led the Iraqi president to attach more importance to him, and to promote him from one military rank to another. Saddam's satisfaction reached the point of agreeing to marry him to his eldest daughter, Raghad, in spite of the strong opposition this marriage faced by Saddam's brothers Watban, Sab'awi, and Kurdi.

In 1987 Saddam Husayn decided to hand over the military industry and its files to his son-in-law Husayn Kamil, who succeeded in realizing all the successes and changes made by the Iraqi military industries, and the nuclear, chemical, and bacteriological programs. He realized this after convincing an Iraqi scientist named Dr. Ja'far Diya'-al-Din, a physician who got his doctorate degree from the British Birmingham University, to work with him in the Iraqi nuclear program, and who now assumes the technical and administrative responsibilities of the Iraqi nuclear weapons program.

Colonel Saddam Kamil is the youngest brother of Husayn Kamil. He began his career by acting as Saddam Husayn in a cinema film entitled "The Long Days." He very much resembles the Iraqi president in his youth, and the film was on the life of the Iraqi president and the sufferings he witnessed during his youth.

These scenes prompted Saddam Husayn to take Saddam Kamil from the Academy of Fine Arts and enroll him in the Military Academy, from which he graduated as an officer. Later, Saddam Kamil joined the team assigned the task of protecting the Iraqi president in the Republican Guards, which were commanded by his brother Husayn Kamil. Saddam Kamil managed to marry Rana, second eldest daughter of the Iraqi president. Later on, he held important and sensitive military posts, the last of which was as commander of the Special Security Service, official in charge of Presidential Security, official in charge of fighting opposition forces in Iraq, and chief of the interrogation committees before which oppositionists appeared. All of these appointments were made by Republican decrees.

Reliable sources have told AL-BILAD that differences began to plague the president's family and his relatives who currently hold official posts after the Iraqi president took over the premiership in addition to the presidency. Many of these relatives, including Husayn Kamil, thought that this would expand the Iraqi people's indignation, because the president put himself up front, particularly in the aftermath of a string of decisions he made, such as ordering ear and hand amputations, which made the president a party to endless religious disputes between Shiites and Sunnis. These problems exacerbated when 'Udayy Saddam Husayn's conduct began to overburden the state as a result of his establishing a state within a state, and of his manipulation of people and events as he wished. These problems reached a peak when the Iraqi president dismissed his brothers (Watban, Sab'awi, and Kurdi), in addition to 'Ali Hasan al-Majid (former defense minister and cousin). All these problems, coupled with commercial disputes over expatriate firms, fisheries, and poultry projects, and import problems marked the start of the dispute between 'Udayy and his brother-in-law Husayn Kamil, which later evolved into a great political dispute. Reliable sources informed AL-BILAD that 'Udayy asked Husayn Kamil to account for the money spent on military industries since 1987, which total approximately $30 billion. Husayn Kamil supervised the spending of this amount through an Iraqi network of liaison officers and agents established abroad before the start of the second Gulf war. This network has thus far remained intact. Huge amounts of money and capital were placed at Husayn Kamil's disposal abroad. They were under secret bank accounts whose ciphers and numbers were known to nobody except himself. The money was meant to be used to meet the requirements and needs of his agents and brokers in Europe and elsewhere in the world so that they would provide him with the information he needed for his nuclear, germ, and biological programs. With this money at his disposal, the Iraqi regime did not have to sell a single drop of oil, as Jawad Hashim, former Iraqi minister of planning, has said. The minister added that Saddam Husayn had laid his hands on $30 billion of the country's oil revenues and diverted them to the military industrialization budget under the supervision of Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan.

In addition to this dispute, things were aggravated when several coup attempts took place in Iraq. Also, arrest and execution campaigns were launched to gag the opposition. From this point, Husayn Kamil started to take a stand opposed to the regime.

Husayn Kamil advised President Saddam to reveal all his cards to the international inspectors to end the problems of the Iraqis and have the blockade lifted. This remark bothered the Iraqi president and his son, 'Udayy. Thus, they started to put Husayn Kamil under the microscope to extract information from him about some matters that were under his direct supervision, such as the communications network and the locations and numbers of accounts as a prelude to isolating him.

Reliable sources have asserted that the idea of political asylum did not occur to Husayn Kamil on the spur of the moment. The idea first occurred to him early last month when Husayn Kamil felt he was in danger after he was put under the microscope of Saddam and 'Udayy and in light of their feverish attempts to know the secrets, which, up to that date, had been the privilege of Husayn Kamil alone.

The sources said that Husayn Kamil's visit to Amman three weeks before his defection from Baghdad was meant to sound out views in case he decided to leave Baghdad for good. Husayn Kamil returned to Baghdad having in mind the idea of mapping out a plan to escape to Amman, along with his family and people close to him. He saw in his scheduled official visit to Bulgaria a good opportunity to carry out this operation, so he started to plan a scenario for his departure. He had to circumvent a decision by the Iraqi Government preventing the wives and children of officials from accompanying them on their trips abroad.

After Ekeus' recent visit to Baghdad, Husayn Kamil, who is known for not giving a sharp opinion, started to talk to Watban Ibrahim, brother of the Iraqi president, and the rest of his brothers who joined his camp that favors a full disclosure of Iraq's secrets to the international inspection teams to put a quick end to the tragedy of the Iraqi people. Husayn Kamil succeeded in convincing the president's three brothers, Watban, Sab'awi, and Barzan on this issue. They decided to raise this issue at a meeting of the ruling family at the Republican Palace.

During the meeting, Watban Ibrahim, Barzan al-Tikriti, Sab'awi, and Husayn Kamil stressed the need to immediately hand over all information, while this view was opposed by 'Udayy and his brother Qusayy and their uncle, 'Ali Hasan al- Majid, former defense minister and current adviser at the Presidential Office. The Iraqi president withdrew from the meeting in protest of the use of indecent language. Afterward, the rest of the conferees exchanged abuses as they marched toward the garage of the Presidential Palace. When the dispute heightened between Watban and Husayn Kamil Hasan on the one hand and 'Udayy on the other, 'Udayy drew his pistol and shot several bullets toward Watban, seriously wounding him in the left leg, wounding two of his escorts, and killing another one of his escorts. Those who were wounded are still in al-Bitar hospital in Baghdad.

As a result of this incident and 'Udayy's threats to General Husayn Kamil Hasan, the latter quickly got in his car and fled from Baghdad, 48 hours earlier than scheduled.

Reliable sources confirmed to AL-BILAD that the defection of Husayn Kamil Hasan and his 37 companions was not an ordinary incident at all, as Kamil himself said. These sources asserted that the defectors arrived in Jordan across the desert. This was clear because they were very tired and thirsty. Soon after their arrival at the Jordanian border, they were protected by a large special security group, which escorted them to the Royal Palace, where his majesty the king granted him and his companions asylum after being briefed on the circumstances that prompted him to leave Baghdad, as well as the difficult circumstances to which they would have been exposed if they had stayed for several more hours there.

Eyewitnesses also asserted that the Iraqi president, who has never been seen crying even by his sons, cried as soon as he was informed of the escape of his two daughters, Raghad and Rana, and that he collapsed as soon as he heard reports on the escape of General Husayn Kamil Hasan and his companions. Soon after he was informed of the defection, he drew up a plan to return General Husayn Kamil Hasan to Baghdad or to silence him forever because he knows more sensitive information than even Saddam Husayn himself. He has information on the president's secret movements, contacts, plans, hiding places, the places he frequents, secret accounts, and the amounts of money Saddam hopes to secure to cover the needs of the Iraqi people if the blockade is prolonged.

Close aides to Saddam advised him to defer all his options. They also advised him to dispatch his son 'Udayy to Amman immediately to meet with his majesty the king to get his permission to return General Husayn Kamil and his companions. Indeed, 'Udayy arrived in Amman on Thursday accompanied by his uncle 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, former defense minister and current adviser at the Presidential Office. They tried to meet with General Husayn Kamil, who has strongly refused to meet with them. After failing to do that, 'Udayy tried to speak with his sisters Raghad and Rana over the telephone, but they also refused to speak with him.

Later, 'Udayy and 'Ali Hasan al-Majid managed to meet with his majesty the king and conveyed to him an oral message they said was from the Iraqi president. The message dealt with the need of extraditing General Husayn Kamil, his brother Saddam Kamil, and their wives and companions for national security and Arab security considerations. This made the king end the meeting, which did not last more than seven minutes as a result of the language used by 'Udayy and was void of the simplest rules of dialogue with a leader such as the king. His majesty has categorically rejected any compromise on the issue of extraditing Husayn Kamil and his companions to the Iraqi authorities for humanitarian considerations, over which Jordan accepts no compromise under any circumstances.

Right after he returned to Baghdad, 'Udayy began a large-scale arrest campaign that reached its peak when 'Udayy issued orders to arrest Brigadier General Nabil 'Abd-al-Majid, commander of the security force in the Tribil area, and four of his aides. He also issued orders to forbid all Iraqi officials to cross through the Tribil area unless he has written approval from 'Udayy himself (even if this official was Saddam Husayn himself).

Security hysteria spread among the Iraqi commanders as a result of the "coup," which was led by Husayn Kamil. Baghdad woke up when its streets were full of Republican Guards and the "special emergency" forces, which were deployed in the city and its outskirts in anticipation of any emergency.

Eyewitnesses told AL-BILAD that large-scale disturbances in the Army resulted in the arrest of several senior officers on 14 August, including Staff Lieutenant General Kamal Mustafa, commander of the Republican Guard I Corps and father of Lieutenant Colonel Ahmad Kamal Mustafa — the husband of the Iraqi president's third daughter, Hala.

Observers believe that chances for Iraqi reactions to this issue have become limited after the Iraqi president severed the last link with Iran as a result of the language he used in his recent speech toward Iran, and as a result of the hostility caused by the Iraqi-Turkish crisis resulting from Turkey's sponsorship of the Kurdish reconciliation, which Iraq considered a painful blow. Eventually, this means that Iraq will not dare to encroach on its only outlet in the world, except in one case; namely, a suicidal action by the Iraqi leadership, or as an official said, a desperate blow which puts a tragic end to Iraq and its ruling regime.

Observers do not rule out the possibility of assassination attempts against Husayn Kamil and his companions. Those observers say that it is possible that several scenarios have already been proposed by the Iraqi intelligence service to liquidate Husayn Kamil and his companions. This has prompted Jordan to mobilize all its security and military agencies, intensify security measures to protect Husayn Kamil and those with him, and to transfer him to a safe area in the outskirts of Amman to ensure his personal security and prepare for any contingency.

In view of the importance of the information possessed by Husayn Kamil, the U.S. intelligence agencies and other agencies have begun contacting him to obtain this information and to help him in drawing up and implementing a scenario that could overthrow the regime of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. Information indicates that Husayn Kamil has expressed his desire to cooperate with Arab and foreign countries by revealing information that would not harm Iraq but that is sufficient to ensure the overthrow of the regime and the lifting of the sanctions imposed on the Iraqi people.

Some observers say that as a result of the information divulged by Husayn Kamil, there has been active movement on the Turkish border and an increasing activity of the AWACS planes in the Arabian Gulf and Turkey. In addition, the coalition forces have been put on alert. A state of alert has also been declared in the Gulf and in Turkey. An increasing air activity has been observed at the U.S. Incirlik air base in Turkey. Observers say the purpose of this mobilization is to support a coup expected to be staged by Husayn Kamil's supporters in Iraq at any moment. This is because most of the Republican Guard forces (Saddam's right arm) are associated with Husayn Kamil's establishment and Saddam Kamil's establishment. The Republican Guard is the last stronghold for the president, after the Iraqi Army's loss of self-confidence as a result of its defeat in the 30-state war against Iraq and the liquidations in the ranks of its leaders of the sons of the al-Dulaym tribe, who tried to topple Saddam almost three months ago.

No one knows for sure the fate of Husayn Kamil's family, especially his brother Major General Salah Kamil, a security officer at the palace. In 1992, Salah Kamil tried to marry Saddam's third daughter, Hala. Salah Kamil was not mentioned with those who fled to Jordan and his fate is still unknown. Also, the fate of Husayn Kamil's immediate relatives and the rest of the members of his family is unknown.

The defection of Husayn Kamil, his brother, and their wives, daughters of the Iraqi president, is a quake that reflects the enormity of the domestic problems. The defection of such a senior official raises dozens of questions about Iraq's military secrets and plans to rebuild its war machine, as well as the fate of this regime and its ability to remain in power. Some observers say that the end is imminent.

IBC Reports 'Details'

LD1608172095 London Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation Press Release in English 1522 GMT 16 Aug 95

[Received by fax]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SALAHUDDIN, Iraq (August 16) — The IBC [Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation] has received the following details of the events surrounding the defections of Husayn Kamil and his brother Saddam Kamil, along with at least 25 officers and aides, on 7 and 8 August:

On the evening of 7 August, in the village of Auja, celebrations were taking place marking the birth of the Prophet Muhammad. A dispute broke out between Major Izzildin Mohammed Hasan al-Majid, an officer in Saddam's personal security force who is married to Husayn Kamil's sister, and one of the supporters of 'Udayy, Saddam's eldest son.

The quarrel escalated to include both Husayn Kamil and 'Udayy themselves, along with their personal bodyguards and followers. At first, verbal abuse was exchanged. This was followed by a physical brawl and threats to shoot. Eventually some gunshots were fired by both sides.

At the end of the fracas, 'Udayy was heard to threaten Husayn Kamil, "Tomorrow, you'll be removed from the Ministry, stripped of all your other posts, and put in prison."

Relations between 'Udayy and Husayn Kamil have been tense recently. 'Udayy had accused Husayn Kamil of forming bogus financial companies, in particular, the Samco company, and embezzling agricultural funds in Athem. The rift deepened last year when 'Udayy refused the hand in marriage of his sister, Hala, to 'Abd-al-Haqim Kamil, Husayn Kamil's brother. Saddam himself also intervened to prevent the marriage going ahead.

In the early morning of 8 August, an official holiday, Husayn Kamil called upon 'Isam Huwaysh, the Governor of the Central Bank of Iraq. He asked the Governor for 35 million US dollars from Military Industrialisation Organisation (MIO) funds held at the bank. Husayn Kamil was formerly head of the MIO.

Initially, the Governor refused to authorise the transfer of funds, saying that Saddam's permission should be sought first. After being tied up and threatened physically by Husayn Kamil, he relented.

Husayn Kamil used a private car to effect his departure, joining a convoy comprising military and civilian vehicles. Joining him en route to Amman were members of his family as well as Saddam Kamil and his family, and several officers. When the convoy reached the town of Trebil, on the Jordan-Iraq frontier, they broke through the border barriers and made directly for Amman.

That evening, Saddam Kamil ought normally to have been at his post at 8pm as personal bodyguard to Saddam Husayn at his office. His absence was noticed and immediately raised serious suspicions in the minds of members of the special security forces. After receiving word of possible defections, special units converged on Husayn Kamil's house, located in the secure area around the Republican Palace, near the Presidential Palace (location 305).

'Udayy had already arrived and was outside Husayn Kamil's house with his mother, Sajida Khairallah. Having failed to open the door of the house, 'Udayy then fired several shots at the door.

Shoot-on-sight orders were then issued to all units as against the following individuals, Husayn Kamil, Saddam Kamil, Izzedine Mohammed Hasan, Colonel Khalil al-Takriti, and 'Abd-al-Haqim Hasan.

A number of people in caravans and GMC cars had escorted Husayn Kamil's convoy to Jordan without being aware of his plans. Upon reaching Jordan, Husayn Kamil offered the drivers the choice of returning to Baghdad or remaining with him and his entourage in Jordan. Those who chose to return were immediately subjected to two days surveillance in Baghdad, and were then imprisoned by the "Special Security Apparatus." (SSA)

Qussay, Saddam's other son and head of the SSA, has conducted six days of continuous and intensive investigations following the departure of Husayn Kamil. Members of the SSA known to be close to Husayn Kamil and Saddam Kamil were the focus of the inquiries. Once these inquiries were completed, they were imprisoned.

Major-General Mustapha al-Tikriti, the Commander of the 1st Corps of the Special Presidential Guards, was accused of neglect of duty and placed under house arrest.

The SSA remains on full alert and key posts have been reinforced.

Qussay has taken charge of Saddam Kamil's former duties at the office of Saddam's special bodyguard.

All Husayn Kamil's former property has been confiscated and eighteen motor vehicles belonging to him have been delivered to the Presidential Palace workshop. Similar measures are being taken with regard to the property of all those who departed with him to Jordan, as well as those close to Husayn and Saddam Kamil who remained in Iraq, and their families.

On 8 August, the head of Husayn Kamil's former office at the MIO, Hashim al-Tikriti, was arrested along with all of his staff. In addition, some 120 project directors and department heads were arrested.

PUK on Related Developments

MM1608150495 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 16 Aug 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "News of Death of Watban After Clash with 'Udayy; Saddam's Wife in Amman To Persuade Daughters to Return"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] has announced that Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan, the older half-brother of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, died late Sunday night in Baghdad from injuries sustained when 'Udayy, the Iraqi president's eldest son, opened fire on him on 8 August.

In a statement distributed in Damascus citing a doctor in al-'Arifiyah hospital in Baghdad, the PUK—which is led by Jalal Talabani—said that "'Udayy opened fire on Watban, his wife, and his sons as they entered a party hall on 8 August. As a result Thurayya, Watban's wife, and 'Ala', one of his sons, as well as three members of the special protection unit, were killed. Watban died in al-'Arifiyah hospital on the night of 13 August having sustained critical injuries."

In another development, a well-informed Iraqi source has stated that Sajidah Khayrallah, wife of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, arrived in Amman yesterday to meet with her two daughters, who were given asylum by King Husayn along with their husbands.

According to that same source, who wished to remain anonymous, Saddam's wife will later meet with her daughters in an attempt to persuade them to return to Iraq. Saddam's wife is accompanied by Manal Yusuf, head of the Women's Federation in Iraq, and Nawal, the Iraqi president's sister.

Reports from Baghdad had said that the two wives [Saddam's daughters] were forced to go with their husbands.

Meanwhile, some members of the Iraqi Women's Federation have contacted a number of Jordanians seeking help for "the release of President Saddam's two daughters." One Jordanian who was contacted by them said "they informed me that Saddam's daughters were drugged and did not come of their own free will."

The same Jordanian, who is a member of a political party in Amman, said that "the [Iraqi Women's Federation] members appealed to the Jordanians" to help release Raghdah and Rana.

The Jordanian source said that Saddam's wife is now staying at the residence of the Iraqi ambassador in Amman and will leave the Jordanian capital "soon," but the Hasan brothers and their wives are staying at a villa in al-Na'ur on the outskirts of Amman under strict security guard.

According to Iraqi opposition sources, Hajj 'Abd Hasan al-Majid, Husayn Kamil's uncle, has arrived in the Jordanian capital Amman accompanied by three ladies and is staying at the Marriott Hotel.

The ladies accompanying him managed to arrange a meeting with Husayn Kamil Hasan and his group in a family gathering as part of the pressure Baghdad is trying to put on the group which sought asylum in Jordan. [passage omitted]

Opposition Fears U.S. To Replace Saddam With Hasan

NC1608162095 Paris AFP in English 1541 GMT 16 Aug 95

[Report by Acil Tabbara]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Aug 16 (AFP)—Iraqi opposition groups expressed fears Wednesday [16 August] that Washington would try to replace President Saddam Husayn with his right-hand man who defected last week, destroying their hopes of radical change.

Arab and Kurdish exiled opposition members warned that Husayn Kamil Hasan, Saddam's son-in-law and former industry minister who defected to Jordan on August 8, would also be a ruthless and undemocratic leader.

These groups oppose meeting him and Hasan has made no overture toward them.

"The problem with the United States is that it hopes to replace Saddam with someone from his entourage, someone from inside the regime who could control things," Hamid al-Bayyati, a spokesman for the Shiite Moslem opposition, said.

"Someone who meets these qualifications would obviously be a Sunni Arab military man," al-Bayyati, a representative in London for the Iran-based Supreme Assembly for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI), told AFP.

"We believe the nature of the regime would not change if Husayn Kamil were in power," he added.

Al-Bayyati said Husayn Kamil had not contacted the opposition, but he had made "contacts with the Saudis whom he has given important information to." He did not elaborate.

SAIRI, meanwhile, issued a statement saying: "Meeting Husayn Kamil or cooperating with him is out of the question, because this character is among those who have committed massacres against the Iraqi people."

Husayn Kamil announced in Amman last Saturday that he planned to topple Saddam Husayn.

The Iraqi National Congress, an umbrella group for the opposition, said his defection "offers the opposition and the Iraqi people new opportunities to work together to topple the dictator Saddam Husayn."

But a spokesman for the INC, Muhammad 'Abd-al Jabbar, said that "in no way means the INC is ready to cooperate with Husayn Kamil."

An INC member who did not want to be named said: "The democratic and Islamic opposition fears there is a US scenario to overthrow Saddam Husayn and replace him with someone from the same government.

"Husayn Kamil is the ideal solution for the Americans because they want a change from within the regime," the official said.

The opposition also fears that "Jordan might back such a scenario."

"We believe it will be a change in people and not in the nature of the regime," he said. "It won't be Husayn Kamil who will set up a democratic government in Baghdad."

Since the end of the 1991 Gulf War to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation the opposition — which includes Kurds, Sunnis and Shiites — has tried to win Western backing to govern Iraq after Saddam's overthrow.

Shalabi Views Campaign To Remove Saddam

MS1708082495 London BBC Television Network in English 2130 GMT 16 Aug 95

[Interview with Dr Ahmad Shalabi, President of the Executive Council of the Iraqi National Congress, by presenter Peter Snow, in London; from the "Newsnight" program — live]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Snow] Well the great survivor is still there in spite of your efforts?

[Shalabi] Well he is, he is there in spite of his defeat in the Gulf war against Kuwait, in spite of his ejection from Kuwait and the sanctions. The point is that we are working now from inside Iraq, our efforts are more persistent, more successful, and we have a propaganda and media campaign directed at Saddam Husayn from inside Northern Iraq, and we have political and military contacts with leading people in the Iraqi Government and within the country.

[Snow] Indeed, but I mean if you haven't yet done it after five years since the Gulf war, and if these two key people in his regime until last week, were unable or unwilling to do anything about themselves when they were beside him, who on earth is going to actually do the job?

[Shalabi] You see, waiting for a coup in Baghdad is a hope, not a policy. The West continues to hope there would be a coup. Our position is that we must put pressure on Saddam Husayn from all areas of Iraq and get the army to move against him, and not just wait and sit around waiting for a coup to happen. Indeed if his sons-in-law could not do it, one of them being his chief of security, who could?

[Snow] Well exactly. I mean, let me follow that up by asking you whether you now accept this General Husayn Kamil as the champion of the opponents of the regime. Do you look to him now as your champion?

[Shalabi] We will not stand in his way if he wants to move to remove Saddam from power. We have our own principles, we are looking for a fundamental change in the country, we are looking for the installment of a democratic regime, a pluralistic regime with respect — which respects human rights in Iraq, but we will not stand in the way of anyone who wants to change the regime, because we feel that a change in Iraq now would be a snowball — which would have a snowball effect, it will sweep the dictatorship away and to let Iraqi people choose their own government, the government that they deserve.

[Snow] But now the fact is still that Husayn Kamil, who had the opportunity to do it presumably, and right beside President Saddam Husayn, didn't do it. Now there hasn't been yet been this popular uprising — I see the president of the Syrian news agency today says the most likely outcome now is a popular uprising against Saddam Husayn. Do you really think that is going to happen?

[Shalabi] There was a popular uprising in 1991, it did not succeed. The point is a popular uprising on it's own is insufficient. A popular uprising must be allied with a political organization which gives a clear message to the people of Iraq that we are, we seek change, and we seek change in such a way as not to have retribution and political revenge.

SAIRI Statement Rejects Cooperation With Hasan

NC1608153695 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The International Relations Department of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] has issued a statement in light of recent developments inside Iraq. The following is the text:

In view of recent developments in Iraq, namely Husayn Kamil's defection to Jordan, SAIRI has been asked to clarify statements by its leader, Ayatollah al-Sayyid al-Hakim, on his position on Husayn Kamil. To clarify things, we note the following points:

1. This person is one of numerous people who carried out crimes and dirty deeds against the Iraqi people to serve Saddam. His crimes of shelling holy shrines and killing thousands of innocent Iraqis during the holy Sha'ban uprising [in southern Iraq after the liberation of Kuwait] live on in the memories of all Iraqis, as do his crimes against neighboring peoples. We believe the conflict between him and Saddam is merely a conflict of personal interests; it is not a conflict over the interests of the Iraqi people.

2. This person has failed to say he regrets or repents for his crimes and actions against the Iraqi people. He remains proud of them. The same goes for his crimes against the Muslim Kuwaiti and Iranian peoples.

3. Based on this, we could never consider meeting this person or cooperating with him.

4. We ask the sons of the Iraqi people and the Armed Forces to display great awareness and caution regarding attempts to contain the efforts of the martyrs and good people among the Iraqis, who have always confirmed the need to rid Iraq of this nightmare bearing down on it and to establish a free and independent Iraq in which all the sons of the Iraqi people enjoy fairness, equality, freedom, dignity, and fraternity among their ethnic and religious groups.

5. We support every honest and serious action the sons of the Iraqi people and the Armed Forces take to get rid of the tragic conditions Iraq is enduring because of the policies of the criminal Saddam regime.

'Udayy's Aides Said To Meet Dulaym Leaders in Jordan

95LH0214A Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 26 Jun 95 p 3

[Unattributed article: "Udayy Saddam Husayn Meets With Dulaymis Who Have Fled to Jordan; General Amnesty, $5 Million, and 500 He-Camels and She-Camels; 'Watban al-Tikriti's Ouster Is Gesture of Goodwill'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite the obstinacy and the unwillingness to back down for which Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is well known, the big split created by the recent bloody confrontation with the al-Dulaym clans—a split that poses the threat of unfathomable consequences—has compelled the president to take a step back and to open the door of dialogue, reconciliation, and restoration of normal relations with the Dulaymi clans. This is what reports received from both Iraq and Jordan say. So what has happened in this regard?

AL-MUHARRIR information says that an Iraqi delegation comprised of 'Udayy Saddam Husayn's aides arrived in the capital of Jordan on Saturday, 17 June 1995, on a secret mission to meet with a number of Dulaym tribal leaders who fled to Jordan in the wake of the recent bloody developments in Abu-Gharib and to urge them to return to their lands. The purpose of the visit was to regain the support of these strong clans, which were until last month one of the most significant mainstays of the existing Iraqi regime, especially in the army and the Republican Guard.

Reliable sources have told AL-MUHARRIR in Amman that the Iraqi delegation, led by the number two man in the Iraqi civilian intelligence, offered the Dulaymi leaders a complete plan to end the campaign against their areas and to pardon all prisoners who took part in the assault on the Abu-Gharib Military Prison, led by Brigadier General Turki Isma'il al-Dulaymi. Turki had been rumored to have been killed, but he appeared on Iraqi television afterward. The delegation also offered the Dulaymi tribes $5 million and 500 camels, one-half of them she-camels.

Reports add that the Iraqi delegation assured the leaders who have taken refuge in Jordan that the ouster of Watban al-Tikriti, the Iraqi president's half brother, from the Ministry of Interior and his placement under house arrest in his town of Tikrit is a "gesture of goodwill" on Saddam's part, which the Dulaymis have totally disregarded.

However, the abscondees to Amman turned down 'Udayy's offer, as they had turned down previous offers urging them to resume their support for the regime. The Dulaymis, whose various clans and subclans count nearly 1 million among their members, are the strongest Sunni tribes in Iraq. Until last month, they formed the strong shield that repelled all endeavors to overthrow the regime and to assassinate its leaders.

Conflicting Stories Emerge on Watban Shooting

MM1708080595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
16 Aug 95 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Saddam's Son 'Udayy Killed His Uncle Watban's Son Ahmad"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — The Unified Iraqi National Congress [UINC] and other Iraqi sources have confirmed that former Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Tikriti's son Ahmad was killed by President Saddam Husayn's son 'Udayy.

They said that the incident occurred on 8 August during an argument between Watban and 'Udayy, who, about midnight, entered a Baghdad hall on al-A'ras Island in the Tigris river. The cause of the argument was a complaint by Lu'ayy, his close cousin and son of the late Defense Minister 'Adnan Khayrallah, to 'Udayy that Watban had slapped him a day earlier in front of others. That complaint made 'Udayy, who had just returned from the border area with Jordan on the day Staff General Husayn Kamil defected, even more angry.

'Udayy proceeded to al-A'ras Island, where there was a celebration marking the anniversary of the end of the Iraq-Iran war. He was carrying an RBK automatic rifle and was accompanied by members of his special guard. After the argument with his uncle Watban he opened fire on the latter and his son Ahmad. Ahmad died after he was taken to the hospital with his injured father. Two of their guards and one of 'Udayy's guards were also killed. The same sources confirmed that 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Regional Command of the ruling Ba'th Party, was also wounded in the incident. Watban is still at the hospital receiving treatment. UINC sources said that Saddam visited Watban at the hospital to express condolences over the death of his son but he did not take any measures against 'Udayy.

Other Iraqi sources have mentioned another story claiming that Watban was wounded "when intercepted by a group of 'Udayy's guards last Thursday when he was on his way back to Baghdad from Tikrit," and that Major 'Azzam al-Tikriti, an aide of 'Udayy, opened fire on Watban.

The newspaper BABIL, which is run by 'Udayy, said last week that Watban was "accidentally" wounded when guns were fired in celebration of the anniversary of the Iraq-Iran war, and was taken to a hospital in Baghdad.

MKO Patrolling Baghdad Following Regime Split

LD1608164795 Tehran IRNA in English
1621 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kermanshah, Aug. 16, IRNA — Terrorists of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) have been put in charge of security control in parts of Baghdad in view of the split in the loyalty of Iraqi forces following the recent defections to Jordan of some immediate family members of Saddam Husayn.

An opponent of the Iraqi regime, who crossed the border into Iran on Tuesday, said the MKO elements were seen patrolling Baghdad as mercenaries of the Iraqi regime.

MKO has set up checkpoints along the old Baquba-Baghdad road and its guards are conducting a check of passing vehicles at the Khan Bani Sa'd bridge, he disclosed.

The source quoted Iraqi citizens as saying that MKO has been turned into a division of the Ba'thist army, and is trying to suppress the popular movements against Saddam.

According to informed sources permission to reside in Baghdad in fact is part of concessions granted to the MKO by Saddam in exchange for suppression of forces opposed to the Iraqi regime.

During the popular uprising in Iraq in 1991, the MKO supported Saddam Husayn in his massacre of Iraqi Shiite Arabs and the desecration of the holy shrines of Najaf and Karbala.

The situation in Iraq has reportedly become tense following the fleeing to Jordan earlier this month of Iraqi Industry Minister Husayn Kamil Hasan and his brother Saddam Kamil Hasan the head of the republican guards, along with their wives (daughters of Saddam Husayn) and some senior military officers.

Hundreds of Officials Reportedly Arrested

NC1608163895 Paris AFP in English
1614 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubayy, United Arab Emirates, Aug 16 (AFP)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn ordered dozens of security officials arrested after the defection of his son-in-law, including the guards that refused to follow him into Jordan, an opposition group said Wednesday [16 August].

Those arrested included members of special services who were close to General Husayn Kamil Hasan, former industry minister, and his brother Saddam Kamil Hasan, who commanded the guard unit responsible for the Iraqi president's protection.

The arrests occurred on August 8, after the two brothers, who were married to Saddam's daughters, fled with their wives to Jordan, according to the Iraqi National Congress [INC], based in London.

The director of Husayn Kamil's cabinet at the military industrialization organization, Hashim al-Tikriti, was also arrested along with his assistants, as well as about 120 department heads at the organization, the INC said in a statement.

Husayn Kamil was also director of the organization and is considered the architect of Iraq's arms programs.

Those who preferred to go back to Baghdad after escorting Husayn Kamil to Jordan without knowing it was a defection were also arrested on their return, the statement said.

Opposition Figure Urges Armed Forces To Rebel

NC1608151795 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An Iraqi opposition figure has called on the Iraqi Armed Forces to rebel against the ruling regime and reject the regime, as General Husayn Kamil, who defected to Jordan, has done. In a statement to REUTERS today, Ayatollah Mudarrisi said the decision by Saddam Husayn's son-in-law is courageous and the other Iraqis must make the same decision and join the Iraqi opposition to work together to overthrow Saddam Husayn's regime.

Mudarrisi said that the door is open to everyone to join the opposition ranks, which will now move strongly, since Saddam Husayn has lost his most important aide.

Discussing Iraq, Mudarrisi said information coming from Iraq indicates massive arrests among the supporters of Husayn Kamil. Many who have not been arrested are under close watch. He stressed that the Saddam regime is gripped with panic and that everyone in Iraq now suspects everyone else. He said that any official of the group surrounding the regime could defect. He noted that the defection to Jordan of Husayn Kamil, his brother, and their families is part of successive events in Iraq. Saddam's relatives have gradually begun to abandon him, Mudarrisi said, adding that he expects many crucial surprises in the next few weeks.

Saddam Meets With MIO Acting Director, Staff

JN1608170395 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1645 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 16 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has praised the militant [jihadiyah] spirit of the staff of the Military Industrialization Organization [MIO] and their determination to reach the highest levels of development in the various fields despite the circumstances of the unjust embargo.

During his meeting with a number of experts, specialists, and officials working at the MIO, his excellency said: Work and construction can only be completed when we believe in the supreme values and the lofty principles. Creativity will stop when faith diminishes, and the great people of Iraq deserve that we serve them wholeheartedly.

A number of officials spoke in the presence of the president stressing that the next phase will witness a new breakthrough to serve Iraq.

Lieutenant General Engineer 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, minister of oil and MIO acting director, reviewed the achievements scored, thanks to the constant care and direct supervision of the president. He stressed that the next phase will witness a new breakthrough for the benefit of our people and that the MIO men will demonstrate that this sector was developed thanks to the direct care of his excellency.

The MIO strugglers [mujahidin] pledged to remain at the disposal of his excellency and faithful to the supreme values, the lofty principles, and the noble objectives on which they were raisedto serve the homeland and its triumphant march.

Official Barred From Attending Sanctions Meeting

JN1708093495 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0830 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 17 Aug (INA)—British authorities have banned Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, chairman of the Arab Popular Forces Conference [APFC], from taking part in the work of an international conference due to convene in London on Saturday [19 August].

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH adds that the British Government has refused to grant Sa'd Qasim Hammudi an entry visa although he was invited to take part in the work of this conference, which will be attended by a large number of world political, intellectual, and parliamentary figures. The conferees aim to draft an international treaty that provides for annulling the economic sanctions clamped on Third World nations, including Iraq.

In his capacity as APFC chairman, Sa'd Qasim Hammudi has sent a letter to the London conferees, asserting that the select group of Arab figures cherishing freedom, progress, and democracy and opposed to U.S. hegemony, Zionist aggression, and all forms of discrimination will be meeting to uphold the slogan of "Lift the Embargoes Clamped on the Third World." He added that the use of economic sanctions against Iraq, Libya, Cuba, and other states is no longer warrantable on legal or ethical grounds, and currently reflects the wishes of Washington, which aims to achieve its own purposes.

In his letter to the conferees, Sa'd Qasim Hammudi went on to say that the rise in mortality rates, the growing difficulties facing those who wish to lead a decent life, and environment pollution require a relentless international effort to put an immediate end to this humanitarian suffering.

The APFC General Secretariat has sent the conferees specific proposals regarding the economic sanctions clamped on Third World nations.

Paper Ridicules U.S. Defense Secretary's Record

JN1708074995 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 0615 GMT 17 Aug 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an editorial by Nuri Najm-al-Din al-Marsumi [first under secretary of the Ministry of Culture and Information] under the headline "What An Audacious Knight You Are, Perry!", the newspaper BABIL says: This man, whose heroic feats are unknown to us, is adept at threatening attacks against Iraq without any reason or justification. We would like to tell him firmly that the continuation of the aggression against our dear homeland will not go unpunished, that Iraqis have handled his missiles properly, that they are not afraid of them, and that they are capable of thwarting any brutal aggression. The day will come when Iraqis and Arabs will render you impotent and unable to do anything or utter meaningful sentences. Then, the world will know what an audacious knight you are.

Perry's 'Threats' Called 'Miserable'

JN1708074295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0615 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 17 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has described as failing and miserable U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry's threats against Iraq.

In an editorial today, the paper ridicules the false U.S. eagerness to support an Arab country against another, saying: The professed Iraqi threat is the constant focus of the U.S. Administration's statements. This administration has chosen to highlight anything related to this threat, in which they may have a role or which they may wish to see materialize. This administration's officials have gone out of their way to underline the so-called U.S. role and the U.S. eagerness to protect this or that country. What they are seeking is to protect their illegitimate interests, particularly in the Arab homeland. They are going to excess in fragmenting and fracturing this homeland.

Elaborating on the U.S. defense secretary's miserable threats against Iraq, the paper wonders: Has William Perry forgotten that lofty Iraq held out in the immortal showdown of the Mother of Battles in the face of the firepower emitted by B-52 bombers, Cruise missiles, the so-called smart bombs, and strikes from afar? Have his predecessors Schwarzkopf, Collin Powell, and Dick Cheney not informed him of what happened to their failed delusions on the territory of lofty and steadfast Iraq?

The paper asserts that the American despots have continued to nurse their fatal delusions regarding what military might can do, which will only backfire and finish off their arrogance, before anything else.

The paper concludes by saying: Let this riffraff know that Iraq is a mountain of pride, that it is a single sword of construction in the right hand of its historic and idolized leader and righteous son Saddam Husayn, and that the heroic Iraqi people, thanks to their valiant Armed Forces, have promoted their cohesion and rallying around their beloved leader. Let those nursing delusions nourish these delusions of theirs, for the Iraqis' wrath is only fuelled by their miserable and hollow threats.

INC Statement on Outcome of Dublin Peace Talks

MS1608121795 London Iraqi National Congress Press Release in English 1121 GMT 16 Aug 95

[Received by fax]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

INC, IRAQI KURDS MEET IN LONDON

London (16 August): The following statement by the Executive Council of the Iraqi National Congress [INC] at the conclusion of London talks with delegates from both Kurdish parties attending the peace conference in Drogheda, Ireland last week:

"The Executive Council of the Iraqi National Congress and members of both Kurdish groups taking part in last week's peace conference met in broad session on Monday 14 August, 1995 at the INC political offices in London.

"The main points raised in Drogheda were discussed, and the INC welcomed the provisional agreement which was signed by the representatives of each of the Kurdish parties. The INC applauds this vital peace initiative, and is confident that it will end the bloodshed, restore peace and security to Iraqi Kurdistan, and safeguard the territorial integrity of Iraq.

"The London talks stressed the importance of both groups abiding by the agreement and the momentum that this will provide to the wider opposition struggle against the dictator. Compliance will also aid in preserving the unity of Iraq and fostering good relations with neighbouring countries.

"The INC urged the leadership of the two parties to expedite their commitments made under the agreement, in particular, the release from mutual attacks in media, as well as the overall commitment to re-establishing security and unity throughout Iraqi Kurdistan.

The INC expressed its solemn desire that the leaderships of the two Kurdish parties hold further meetings as soon as possible to finalise the details of the Drogheda agreement and the basis upon which it can best be implemented with the cooperation and consultation of the INC, which, throughout the crisis, has demonstrated its willingness to mediate for peace in Iraqi Kurdistan as part of the overall struggle against Saddam's dictatorship."

Iranian Kurds Allowed To Broadcast From al-Sulaymaniyah

JN1508140095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1255 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Sulaymaniyah, 15 Aug (INA) — The Jalalists [followers of Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, PUK] have allowed the Iranian Kurdistan Democratic Party radio to transmit from al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate.

Information obtained by the INA special correspondent in al-Sulaymaniyah indicates that this measure came in response to the Iranian regime's failure to make good on its promise to provide aid to the Jalalists.

Rabin Views Palestinian Covenant, Syrian Track

TA1708132595 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] It is not enough for the Palestinian self-rule council, once it is elected, to amend those sections of the Palestinian Covenant calling for Israel's destruction, the PLO itself must modify the document, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday. [passage omitted]

At the Knesset committee session, Rabin also expressed regret at what he called a mistake by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch in not obtaining a videocassette of a public appearance in which 'Arafat used the term jihad. He disputed the assertion by MK [Knesset Member] Ze'ev Begin (Likud) that IDF Intelligence is still not being ordered to follow 'Arafat's public and private statements.

Rabin said the tape, belatedly shown on Israel Television, was obtained from a Tel Aviv academic. Rabin also indicated that he expected a new water pipeline to be built from inside the Green Line to Gush 'Etzyon and Qiryat Arba'. Apparently, the change is being made so that those settlements would not be drawing on water from areas that may come under Palestinian control. [passage omitted]

[Another report by David Makovsky on the same page adds: "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin dissuaded US Secretary of State Warren Christopher from visiting the Middle East until the US secured Syria's agreement on a date for the resumption of military talks on security arrangements.

["Rabin told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday that Christopher — who was in Southeast Asia last week — had been considering a Middle East stopover.

["However, exploratory contacts with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' made it clear that Syria is still linking military talks with Israel's giving up its Golan Heights early warning system. It thus became clear that a Christopher trip to the region would not be useful at this time, officials cited Rabin as saying.

["Syria has instead offered to hold diplomatic discussions on unspecified subjects. However, Rabin has insisted on holding Syria to a previous commitment to send military officers to negotiate security arrangements."]

Al-Asad Tells Aide No Treaty Before Elections

TA1608183595 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Aug 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has decided not to sign a peace treaty with Israel by election time. At least this is what he said to Usamah al-Baz, the Egyptian president's senior aide.

Al-Asad told the Egyptians that he reached the conclusion that he will receive no less from Binyamin Netanyahu than he will receive from Yitzhaq Rabin. Al-Baz told this to 'Ofer Bronstein, the head of the International Peace Center.

Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen adds that al-Baz' remarks are compatible with assessments recently made by Prime Minister Rabin himself.

In reaction to this, the Likud has stated that if anybody in Damascus thinks so, let him. The Likud adds that abrogating the Golan law conditional on a special Knesset majority will be incorporated into the party's platform for the next elections.

Rabin: Peace Based on United Jerusalem

TA1608155895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Rabin says the peace process with the Palestinians is based on two main principles: that Jerusalem remain the united capital of Israel and that Israel's security border be the Jordan River.

Addressing a United Jewish Appeal delegation in Jerusalem, Rabin said that the platform of the Labor Party was for the formation of a Palestinian entity, but not a state.

[Begin Rabin recording] We made it clear in 1992 before the elections that we would like to see peace between us and a Palestinian entity next to us within the former British-mandated Palestine; less than a state, to move gradually, but not to return to the pre-Six-Day-War lines. And, the two basic elements are: One, Jerusalem must remain united under Israel's sovereignty, the capital of Israel; I believe the heart of the Jewish people. Second, to have a defensible boundary I would like to see the defense line of Israel on the Jordan River, the Jordan Valley. And without going geographically about external security in the future, to make sure that there we will defend Israel — not 50 km closer to Tel Aviv, in Ari'el. [end recording]

On settler protests, Rabin said that a democracy is based on legitimate expression of opposition but not anarchy.

[Begin Rabin recording] It's legitimate to oppose, to try to convince, but to maintain the basis of democracy and not to allow the situation to become an anarchy. There is a red line that divides between real democracy and terrible anarchy, and that red line is the law. [end recording]

MK Meridor on Government, Adherence to Accords

TA1508075395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Knesset Member [MK] Dan Meridor says Yitzhaq Rabin's government is legitimate, and it must not be toppled by a mob. Meridor made this observation in a meeting with Labor Young Guard members. He also addressed the question of the conditions that would obligate a Likud government to adhere to the agreement with Yasir 'Arafat, if such a government is established following the elections.

Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel attended this uncharacteristic encounter between a senior opposition representative and ruling party members.

[Begin recording] [Deqel] It was a lively, businesslike, but in no way belligerent argument. The disagreements were not swept under the carpet, but the meeting between Labor members and Dan Meridor, held in a small hall, showed that the coalition and the opposition, while not necessarily in concord, can argue without screaming or verbal abuse.

Meridor opened by welcoming the encounter: One of the things we lack at this time of such a meaningful rift in the nation is a dialogue, he said. Replying to Labor members' questions, he addressed the opposition's protest practices. MK Meridor was unequivocal:

[Meridor] The street must not be permitted to topple the government either passively nor actively — I see no substantial difference in this context. This is a mistaken and a dangerous government, but it is a legitimate government which had a majority in the last elections and still has a majority in the Knesset today.

[Deqel] Although he maintained that the government should allow demonstrations and rallies and follow a liberal interpretation of the pertinent laws, he spoke out resolutely against law violation by the protesters.

[Meridor] A government is toppled in elections, not in the street. What purpose do elections serve if any minority, be it left or right, religious or secular, can say: It does not matter what the majority says, I am going to disrupt the government's policy.

[Deqel] As could be expected, Meridor attacked the agreement with the PLO and referred to 'Arafat as head of a terrorist organization. At the same time, he was asked to address the question of how the Likud would behave toward the Oslo Agreement if it comes to power:

[Meridor] Agreements signed by a legitimate government — and this is one — bind the state. Yet on the international level, as well as on the private level, no individual or state is obligated to unilaterally adhere to an agreement.

[Deqel] Meridor enumerated the parameters — most notably the annulment of the Palestinian Covenant — which the Likud will take into account if it comes to power.

[Meridor] If the Covenant is not fully annulled, including the entire clause about the annihilation of the State of Israel, or its nonexistence, or the nonrecognition of Israel's existence; if 'Arafat continues calling for a jihad; if all that persists, we will have no one to talk to; it will be a waste of words. If, however, there is a drastic change, if the entire situation changes over, that will be a new reality. I will say no more at this time; we will evaluate the situation as it is in the future.

[Deqel] We can assume that the matter of the parties' stands on honoring the Oslo Accords will be a central election issue in a year. [end recording]

Group Claims Accord Talks To Begin Dec 1995

TA1708090495 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Aug 95 p A5

[Report by Nadav Shragay]

[FBIS Translated Text] A right-wing group, calling itself "Bereshit [Genesis] — Coordinating Headquarters," which operates from the Tel Aviv area and occasionally issues vituperative leaflets against the government, published another leaflet yesterday calling for "stepping up popular resistance in order to overthrow the traitorous regime, which bases its power on the PLO representatives in the Knesset." Previous leaflets published by the group reported various protest activities the right wing intended to initiate, and which indeed subsequently took place, as well as agreements between the PLO and Israel in different fields.

Yesterday's leaflet claims that the signing ceremony of the Oslo B agreement will take place on 24 September 1995 and that Israel has promised to release at least two-thirds of the Palestinian prisoners by this date. The leaflet also contends that Israel has agreed to move the start of the discussions on the permanent arrangement ahead by six months to December 1995. This information has not been confirmed by any other source.

The leaflet states that "in the next few days and weeks, all the national right-wing bodies in Israel and abroad will concentrate their efforts to completely disrupt normal life in the country in order to prove to the entire world that this government is not popular and does not control the public."

The leaflet also warns of a wave of demonstrations in front of Israeli Consulates in New York and other cities and notes that right-wing demonstrators will swarm intersections in a declaration of civil disobedience.

SHAS Working Out Alternative To Oslo B

TA1708101695 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Aug 95 p A8

[Report by Shahar Ilan]

[FBIS Translated Text] SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] is working out an alternative to the Oslo B agreement. This was reported in today's edition of the SHAS organ YOM LEYOM. The paper claims that with this end in view, intensive contacts have been conducted over the last few days between SHAS, the Third Way, and Likud officials. The paper explains that the Oslo B agreement has caused great concern in SHAS for the settlers' security. Consequently it was decided to formulate an alternative document.

YOM LEYOM notes that the decision on whether to support the Oslo B agreement will be made by the Council of Torah Scholars when the agreement is brought before the Knesset for approval.

This is a neutral statement which does not clarify the party's position. At the same time it is clear that the report on the document being formulated by SHAS is part of the party's efforts to return to the political right and regain its disenchanted right wing voters.

Shlomo Benizri, chairman of the SHAS faction, says that "SHAS prefers to proceed directly to the final arrangement while passing over the interim arrangement. If Israel is going to make so many concessions, why leave peace in doubt by opening the door for additional concessions? Why should we leave the PLO room to evade peace? What are we going to give up in the next stage — Jerusalem? It is preferable for both sides that the process be completed as soon as possible."

In reaction, Yehuda Har'el, one of the leaders of the Third Way, said he knows nothing about any contacts with SHAS.

Likud, Third Way Deny SHAS Claims

TA1708102395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sources in the Likud and the Third Way have denied reports originating with SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] about contacts on the permanent arrangement in the territories. A spokesman for the Third Way said the movement's leaders — Messrs. Shomron, Qahalani, and Har'el — are not aware of any such contacts. Likud officials were also surprised by the SHAS announcement.

Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel was told that SHAS may have released the report in a bid to gain the support of right-wing voters because of fears that David Levi's new party may draw their votes away from SHAS.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 17 August reports that "Knesset Member Arye Der'i confirmed that SHAS was conducting contacts with the Likud and the Third Way movement in what he described as an attempt to form the widest possible public consensus for a political compromise while preserving Israel's red lines. Der'i added that in his opinion the government must rapidly move on to the permanent arrangement with the Palestinians in order to preclude a rift among the Israeli public."]

Settlers Polled on Moving Settlements to Blocs

TA1508110295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Aug 95 p A4

[Report by Nadav Shragay]

[FBIS Translated Text] Some 44.5 percent of the settlers in the West Bank favor the relocation of small and isolated settlements to large blocs which would be under Israeli sovereignty and territorially linked to the State of Israel, 50 percent object to the idea, and the rest have no opinion on the subject, according to a public opinion poll conducted by Modi'in Ezrahi and commissioned by Memad [a center-right religious movement founded in 1988].

The poll was conducted by telephone on 8 August and encompassed 404 respondents who constitute a representative sample of all West Bank settlers aged 18 and above.

Yosi Ben-Gal, director general of Memad, said the purpose of the poll was to gauge the settlers' position about the possible implementation of the plan drafted by Memad over a year ago to create settlement blocs. The poll shows that 19.3 percent agree to a territorial compromise, 10.6 percent "somewhat oppose it," 65.8

percent "totally oppose it," 3.7 percent will formulate their position according to the circumstances, and 0.5 percent have no opinion on the issue.

Nevertheless, agreement on a territorial compromise increases (and opposition decreases) in the event of the implementation of the plan. The poll found that one third (33.2 percent) of the West Bank settlers would support a territorial compromise, 10.7 percent would "somewhat oppose it," and 54.5 percent would "definitely oppose it." The rest had no opinion on the matter.

According to their own definition, the settlers in the West Bank are divided into 31.4 percent who are religious, 30 percent who are secular, 24.8 percent who are observant, and 12.6 percent who are ultra-Orthodox.

Settler Injured During Levinger Arrest

TA1708052795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hebron settler leader Rabbi Moshe Levinger is due to appear in court today charged with having failed to present himself to face charges in two other trials that were set for June of this year. Rabbi Levinger was arrested last night near the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron and taken into custody when he refused to pay an 800 shekel fine. Settlers who tried to prevent the detention caused a disturbance in which one man was lightly injured.

'Terrorist Attack' Planned for Tel Aviv Foiled

TA1608180895 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Aug 95

[Shlomi Eldar video report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cooperation between the Israeli and Palestinian security forces led to the foiling — at the beginning of the week — of a large-scale terrorist attack planned for Tel Aviv. The operational order to a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] squad in Gaza to carry out the attack came from overseas, and this is the reason for the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip a week ago. The identity of the suicide terrorist is known but he has not yet been captured. Our correspondent Shlomi Eldar provides initial details:

[Begin Eldar recording] The closure imposed on the Gaza Strip for the last week was the result of information reaching the Israeli security forces about a planned attack. According to foreign sources, the operational order reached a Hamas squad in Gaza from overseas. The order was to commit a large-scale suicide attack in Tel Aviv. The terrorist who was supposed to carry it out is a Gaza Strip resident. The Israeli security forces immediately relayed the information, including the name and address of the terrorist, to the Palestinian security services, demanding that they detain the suicide terrorist and his squad. The Palestinians detained five Hamas activists at once, and launched a manhunt for the terrorist. They are also looking for a green Fiat 131. This car was supposed to transport the explosives and the detonator, which were to be carried on the terrorist's body. In the wake of the intelligence information, a discussion was held at the Prime Minister's Office and the closure was decided on. So far, the Palestinians have not located the car or the suicide terrorist.

Senior Palestinian security service members yesterday met with Sha'ul Mofaz, commander of the Southern Command. They claimed they would capture the terrorist shortly. Major General Mofaz rejected their demand to lift the closure. It was decided to hold a daily assessment of the situation, but the Israelis also know that it is impossible to extend the closure indefinitely. Exit permits continued to be issued today to the thousands of laborers who want to work in Israel. The pressure for the lifting of the closure is heavy, as can be witnessed by anyone who reached the Gaza Strip. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Gaza Closure Extended to 18 Aug

TA1608161895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The closure on the Gaza Strip has been extended until early Friday morning [18 August].

Sweden's Sahlin Postpones Visit to Orient House

TA1608113895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The visit to Israel of Swedish Deputy Prime Minister Mona Sahlin, during which she planned to visit Orient House, has been postponed. This has been concluded in a phone conversation between Sahlin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. No alternative date has been scheduled for the visit.

Police Raid 5 East Jerusalem Institutions

TA1708092595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel Police detectives and security personnel showed up at five Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem yesterday and today and interrogated employees about their links with the Palestinian Authority and their sources of financing. This has been learned by our police affairs correspondent Aviv Bushinsky.

'Abd-al-Jabr Malak, head of the Energy Research Institute in Bayt Hanina, was questioned about his sources of financing and the activities of his office. He said he refused to hand over any materials to the police without a warrant, adding that he is not conducting any political activity.

Shin Bet Special Interrogation Permit Extended

TA1608114295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Aug 95 pp A1, A2

[Report by Ze'ev Schiff]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The special permits granted to the Shin Bet on the basis of the Landau Commission's report regarding the interrogation of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad members suspected of terror will be extended by two more months. The method of jostling suspects will not be abolished, but it will require a more stringent approval system than has been customary so far. A compromise to this effect was achieved this week by Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir and the Shin Bet chief, with the mediation of Justice Minister David Liba'i.

The compromise will enable the justice minister to accelerate the preparation of a Shin Bet bill that will include procedures legalizing all the interrogation methods, including special permits for grave situations. The bill will further bestow a legal status on the ministerial committee that approves these permits. [passage omitted]

Ministry Seeks Details on 1956 POW Incident

TA1508175295 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 15 Aug 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Foreign Ministry today requested details from the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] on the killing of Egyptian POW's during the Sinai Campaign. After studying the material, Foreign Ministry officials will decide how to respond to the questions asked by the Egyptian authorities in this regard.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said today that he greatly regrets the statements that have been made on this matter.

Historian on Killing of Egyptians During 1967 War

TA1608114595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Another affair of the killing of Egyptian prisoners by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers has been revealed. Dr. Arye Yitzhaqi, a military historian from Bar-Ilan University, told Qol Yisra'el that 27 years ago he uncovered the killing of hundreds of prisoners in the Sinai and other sectors during the Six-Day War. Dr. Yitzhaqi claims the research he wrote about a year after the war was shelved by orders from above.

The research indicates the most notable affair occurred in the al-'Arish sector. A Shaqed commando unit headed by Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, a colonel at the time, butchered some 300-400 Egyptian commandos who had surrendered or were fleeing toward Egypt.

In reaction, Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer says he knows nothing about the butchering of prisoners by members of the Shaqed commando unit. He claims that many Egyptian soldiers from the battalion fighting the Shaqed commando unit were killed.

The issue of the prisoners was raised today in a meeting between Muhammad Basyuni, the Egyptian ambassador in Israel, and Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan. Ambassador Basyuni said his country is awaiting an Israeli investigation into the matter. This is reported by our political correspondent Shlomo Raz.

Documents Said To Disprove Claims

TA1708081395 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by Alon Pinkas]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Transcripts of orders from the Six Day War shown to THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday clearly indicate that the alleged mass murder of Egyptian POWs near al-Arish in Sinai never occurred as described yesterday by a Bar-Ilan University military historian.

What transpires from the transcripts is that several hundred armed Palestinian soldiers, in Egyptian army uniforms, were trying to escape from the Gaza Strip toward Port Said — not knowing that the area was already under IDF [Israel Defense Forces] control — on the last day of the war. They exchanged fire with Nahal soldiers and most were later killed by soldiers from the Shaqed reconnaissance unit.

Arye Yitzhaqi, of Bar-Ilan, who in the past worked in the IDF's history department, said that IDF soldiers under the command of Lt.- Col. Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, now the housing minister, killed 300-400 Egyptian POWs. In fact, Ben-Eli'ezer was the deputy commander of the Shaqed reconnaissance unit (Battalion 424). The commander was the late Lt.-Col. 'Amos Yarqoni, although Ben-Eli'ezer was acting commander when the killings occurred.

Yitzhaqi revealed that after the war, he conducted a study proving that in six or seven separate incidents, approximately 1,000 unarmed Egyptian prisoners of war were killed by IDF units.

"The most prominent of the incidents was in the al-Arish dunes, where the Shaqed reconnaissance unit, commanded by Ben-Eli'ezer, and a Nahal unit killed 300-400 unarmed Egyptians. I submitted the study to then chief of general staff Yitzhaq Rabin, but he, as well as the upper echelons of the army, knew and swept it under the rug," Yitzhaqi told Israel Radio.

Ben-Eli'ezer flatly denied any POW killings.

"During the war a Shaqed battalion was deployed in the al-Arish airport. There were recurrent skirmishes with a Palestinian battalion of the Egyptian army. During the battles, many Palestinians were killed. Furthermore, I ordered there be no shooting at anyone who did not resist or surrendered," Ben-Eli'ezer said.

Military historian and Col.(res) Me'ir Pa'il said that Yitzhaqi was never a military historian or a researcher in the army history department.

"He was a clerk in the department's archive. In 1968, he was an assistant of mine when I conducted a comparative study of the conquests of Sinai in 1948, 1956, and 1967. Had he stumbled on these devastating so-called facts, he would have said so then. The fact is he didn't," Pa'il said.

He added that Yitzhaqi is politically motivated, trying to cover for the actions of Arye Biro and Refa'el Eytan. Biro has admitted killing POWs in 1956.

Pa'il said that no parallel can be drawn between the two incidents. The army, he stressed, puts enormous emphasis on the concept of "purity of arms," though there have been occasional deviations and exceptions.

Yitzhaqi made the allegation amid Egyptian demands that Israel look into the reports of the 1956 killings. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa asked Israel to investigate the matter, and Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni yesterday reiterated the demand in a meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan.

During his radio interview, Yitzhaqi said he had decided to go public with the information because of the current attention being focused on the killing of 49 Egyptian POWs in the 1956 Sinai Campaign.

"It annoys me that everyone is making an issue about that one case, when everyone knows there were so many events like it," he said.

In a letter to Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein on the Biro affair, Rabin said:

"The first years of the IDF, immediately following its founding, were marked by the birth pangs of an army whose military doctrine, behavior, and discipline had not yet been crystallized. In those years, there were exceptions, along with difficult fighting involving insufficient means.

"Brig-Gen. Biro no longer serves in the reserves. In addition to being a survivor of the Holocaust, one of the first to serve in the IDF, and a brave fighter, he has made remarks in newspaper interviews in the last few days, which do not reflect honorably upon him, and certainly not upon the IDF. I am amazed by the style of his remarks, and I condemn his harsh words without reservation, but no less than the act itself.

"In any case, the IDF achieved its start as a humanitarian army, whose soldiers were blessed with a unique ethical standard. The exceptions teach nothing about the general rule. The opposite is true: they show lone individuals who did things which the rest of us did not do, and which every one of us condemns absolutely."

'Senior Sources' Reveal Iraq Weapons Deception

TA1608181995 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Aug 95

['Imanu'el Rosen video report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Initial details about Saddam Husayn's international deception, as disclosed by General Husayn Kamil who defected to Jordan:

Information reaching the United States indicates that the Iraqis managed to conceal from the UN supervisors and the whole world huge quantities of nonconventional weapons, including biological and chemical weapons. The following report is by our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen.

[Begin Rosen recording] The aircraft carrier USS Roosevelt arrived in Haifa today, and the U.S. presence in the Gulf of 'Aqaba continues to send a signal to Saddam Husayn.

Saddam has a cause for concern of course, and the chief defector, Husayn Kamil, is beginning to deliver the goods. Needless to say, Husayn Kamil is maintaining ongoing contacts with the Americans, and it seems that the information tap has been turned on. The information he has relayed so far — so we were told today by senior Jerusalem sources — indicates that Iraq led the world and Rolf Ekeus' controllers astray with regard to the arsenal of nonconvetional weapons still left in its possession. Kamil says Saddam simply laughed at these controller teams, gave them partial and false information even in recent months, and concealed the truth. It is already clear, according to the Americans, that the value of the information Ekeus and his people brought to the West was negligible. [end recording]

Officials Deny Saddam's Wife Visiting

JN1708095595 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Jordanian government and Iraqi embassy officials on Wednesday denied reports that the wife of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn was visiting Amman in a bid to meet her two daughters who defected to Jordan last week.

"The report is not true," said an official spokesman. "The wife of the president of Iraq is not visiting Jordan."

A spokesman for the Iraqi embassy also denied the reports and said he had "no information that the president's wife was or is coming to Jordan."

According to earlier reports, Sajidah Saddam Husayn, in her mid-50s, arrived in Amman on Tuesday and was staying at the residence of the Iraqi ambassador, Ibrahim Nuri al-Wayyis. Other rumours had it that President Saddam's sister as well as his mother were also in town in a bid to convince the president's two daughters to return to Iraq or at least to meet them.

The two daughters, Raghad and Rana, who are married to brothers Husayn Kamil Hasan and Saddam Kamil Hasan respectively, came to Amman on Aug. 8 along with their entourage included army officers and soldiers, among them a cousin of the Hasans, Major 'Izz-al-Din Muhammad Hasan and his family.

Husayn Kamil Hasan, who served as Iraq's minister of industry, and Saddam Kamil Hasan, head of the Iraqi presidential guards, their families and all others with them were granted asylum in Jordan by His Majesty King Husayn.

'Udayy Husayn, President Saddam's eldest son, rushed to Amman close on their heels and sought their return home. But Jordan turned down their demand saying it could not hand over the defectors since they were in Jordanian territory by their own choice, and 'Udayy's sisters refused to meet with him.

Sajidah Saddam Husayn hails from the Khayrallah family. She married Saddam Husayn in 1963 and bore him two boys, 'Udayy and Qusayy, and three girls, Raghad and Rana as well as Hala.

President Saddam married for a second time in 1988. His second wife is Samirah Shahbandar, who used to work for Iraqi Airways. He was reported to have married a third wife, varyingly identified as nuclear/solar scientist Hayfa' or Nidal. There has been no confirmation of the third marriage.

Sajidah is the sister of 'Adnan Khayrallah, a defence minister who died in a 1989 helicopter crash.

Husayn Kamil told reporters on Saturday he described the defection plan to his wife, Raghad, President's eldest daughter, 10 days in advance.

Energy Minister: Iraqi Oil Deliveries To Continue

MM1708102195 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Aug 95 p 11

[Unattributed Report: "Jordanian Energy Minister: Deliveries of Iraqi Oil to Jordan To Continue, But We Will Seek Oil Imports From Saudi Arabia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Jordanian Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Samih Darwazah confirmed the arrival in Jordan last Sunday of Iraqi technicians to take part in studies and oil and gas prospecting operations in the Jordanian areas adjoining the Iraqi borders in the al-Rishah field, in cooperation with Jordanian technicians of the Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry.

Darwazah said that cooperation in this field between Jordan and Iraq has been going on for a long time, and that the arrival of these technicians was part of the work program agreed previously.

He also stated that the Jordanian Energy Ministry signed oil prospecting contracts in Jordan with a foreign company.

He said that this company will start prospecting for oil first in the Dead Sea region before the end of the current year, since the results of geological studies indicated the presence of substantial and positive oil deposits.

He added that an agreement will be signed within the next few days with three other foreign oil companies, and that all three had asked to conduct prospecting in the Dead Sea region.

The minister confirmed that Iraqi oil deliveries to Jordan will continue, but added: After building the oil refinery in Aqaba, we will seek to import crude oil from some Arab countries, especially Saudi Arabia, since there is great potential there. The Aqaba refinery will be reserved for the export of petroleum products only, and consequently we are obliged to import crude oil from some Arab countries and especially Saudi Arabia, in view of the fact that the export of Iraqi petroleum products is forbidden by the United States.

Darwazah explained that the Palestinian National Authority had asked Jordan to provide it with petroleum products, and that Jordan will comply with this request after production starts at the Aqaba refinery.

Minister on Oil Supplies From Iraq

JN1708112595 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Aug 95 p 14

[Report by Suha Halasah]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Samih Darwazah, minister of energy and mineral resources, has said that oil supplies from Iraq are still arriving in the required quantities. He added that there are no signs of an oil shortage in the kingdom, noting that Jordan's oil imports from Iraq total 70,000 barrels per day. [passage omitted]

Government Accused of 'Fueling' Inter-Arab Disputes

JN1708091395 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Aug 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (J.T.)—All 11 Jordanian opposition parties Wednesday issued a statement calling on the Arab countries to help end the sanctions imposed on Iraq and expressed surprise at what it said was Jordanian fueling of disputes among Arab countries.

The statement said that the 11 parties studied the latest developments and the flight to Jordan by the former Iraqi Minister of Industry and examined the official Jordanian position vis-a-vis this issue and decided to issue the following four-point statement:

First: The 11 parties declare their adherence to their firm stand of demanding an immediate lifting of the embargo on the Iraqi people imposed unjustly by the United States for the past five years. The opposition parties demand that the Arab governments take immediate steps in response to the cries of Iraqi children to end the sanctions.

Second: the change of regime in any country is not the task of another, and what is happening in Iraq is an internal Iraqi affair and the responsibility of the Iraqi people regardless whether we agree or disagree with its leadership. Experience has proved that interference in internal affairs is bound to fail.

Third: Though we welcome in our country any persons seeking political refuge out of brotherly feelings and in line with international laws we do not accept any violation of our hospitality or the use of our country as a platform for calling for change of the regime in Iraq. This is not our mission and we will never take action against any Arab country.

Fourth: While the (Jordanians) authority reaffirms its objective of working to regain pan-Arab solidarity, we are surprised to see the government fueling inter-Arab conflicts. We believe that pan-Arab solidarity should be employed to deal with any Zionist-imperialist conspiracies the statement concluded.

Paper Notes 'Positive' Iraqi Reaction

JN1608110795 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Aug 95 pp 1, 30

[Editorial: "The Iraqi Reaction to the Jordanian Statement]

[FBIS Translated Text] The front-page report published today by AL-DUSTUR — noting the satisfaction with which various Iraqi circles received the Jordanian official position — represents a political testimony in favor of the position expressed by Prime Minister His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, in a meeting with members of the House of Representatives, regarding the circumstances surrounding the defection of General Husayn Kamil to Jordan.

A misreading of the Jordanian position had led some to reach incorrect conclusions and had almost caused a misunderstanding similar to that created during the Gulf war five years ago. However, this misunderstanding was soon dissipated by the clear facts included in the official statement.

Jordan, which stood by the Iraqi people in the worst conditions and was subjected to harm and blockade, cannot but continue to hold on to the same position out of its faithfulness to itself, in line with its principles and values, and out of its belief that joint pan-Arab interests of the two fraternal peoples should be placed above all other considerations.

Thus the passing Jordanian-Iraqi misunderstanding was soon dissipated by the government statement, which was based on a host of constant Jordanian principles and values, foremost of which is the inadmissibility of turning Jordan into a base or a passageway to any foreign conspiracy against Iraq and the Iraqi people.

The positive Iraqi reaction to and noticeable satisfaction with the Jordanian statement on the defection of Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan is strong evidence that Jordanian-Iraqi relations — which strike deep roots in the hearts of the two fraternal peoples — are too strong to be shaken by passing incidents and events that usually take place among any two neighborly countries.

Editorial: Defections Should Not Be Politicized

JN1508032095 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Aug 95 p 6

[JORDAN TIMES Editorial]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The defection of Iraqi Minister of Industry General Husayn Kamil Hasan and his entourage to Jordan has attracted, and rightly so, immense political interest, here in Jordan, in Iraq itself and throughout the world. This is not the first time, however, that an important Arab national seeks refuge in another Arab country and probably will not be the last. In the absence of sufficient democratic institutions in the Arab World, many discontented officials rightly or wrongly resort to defection as a means of addressing their grivances whether genuine or not. What is needed, therefore, is a new understanding whereby the receiving state does not pay a price for granting asylum-seekers refuge within its borders, as indeed international law requires it to.

Within the Arab framework especially, an Arab state that serves as host to refugees often becomes a suspect in the eyes of the country from which the asylum seekers come. Politicising the granting of a refugee status, though, should not be the ultimate consideration on the part of the affected countries. A generally satisfactory solution can be easily found if the whole issue of asylum is viewed in a strictly legal manner and away from the spotlight of politics. In the case of Gen. Hasan Jordan has neither asked for his defection nor encouraged him to come here. Jordanians were caught by surprise by the event just as much as the Iraqis were.

The latest episode in inter-Arab politics should make us reflect on the need to articulate a precise policy on refuge seekers and to apply it uniformly on all concerned people in an indiscriminate manner. The Arab World cannot follow double standards in this vein and must be consistent and fair under all circumstances. We cannot surrender some refuge seekers or accept others in an arbitrary manner. Otherwise our countries will continue to suffer from the state of mutual fears and suspicions that we have had to live with for many years now.

Above all we must agree on a code of conduct under which acts of refuge taking or giving are not used for political purposes. The granting of asylum or refugee status to any person is a strictly humanitarian issue that should remain so at all times.

With regard to iraq in particular, the fallout from the defection of members of President Saddam's own family could have serious repercussions on Iraq's quest for easing the international sanctions. We do have a vested interest to promote the lifting of those sanctions and as a matter of fact Jordan has been trying its best to attain this objective out of concern for the Iraqi eopl who have suffered enough. It would thus be most unfortunate if Tuesday's defection was allowed to be used as another reason for prolonging he Iraqi people's torment and suffering.

Foreign Minister Departs for Saudi Arabia

JN1508160095 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti left Amman for Riyadh this evening on a visit to sisterly Saudi Arabia. During the visit, the foreign minister will convey a message from His Majesty King Husayn to his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques.

Prior to his departure, al-Kabariti made the following remarks to reporters:

[Begin al-Kabariti recording] His majesty the king has honored me with carrying a message from his majesty to his brother his majesty the custodian of the two holy mosques. The message deals with the kind of relationship hoped for between Saudi Arabia and Jordan. Jordanian-Saudi relations have always been an important and basic pillar in inter-Arab relations. I hope that we will have a chance to complete what we started during our first trip, when we agreed to bolster and advance political dialogue to a future strategic relationship serving our shared strategic objectives and joint security. From the brotherly point of view, by visiting sisterly Riyadh again, we would be visiting our other home. From the political point of view, we cannot deny that Riyadh is a strategic axis in the region. [end recording]

Paper Reports on Aborted Commando Operation

JN1608064595 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 16 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] A Palestinian commando has managed to infiltrate the northern Jordanian-Israeli borders with handguns, kalashnikovs, and silencers. The words "a gift from Saddam Husayn" were inscribed on one of the handguns. Israeli forces declared the Jordan Valley a restricted area and imposed a curfew on Arab villages close to the Jordanian border during their search for the infiltrator, who was captured after a wearisome chase of over eight hours.

On 24 June, Israeli forces said they killed a Palestinian infiltrator. It is noteworthy that Jordanian security forces have recently arrested a number of Palestinian military activists residing in Jordan in what was termed an attempt to curb military actions against Israel from Jordan, especially since the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty stipulates mutual protection from "sabotage actions" and acts of violence.

U.S. Forces Begin Arriving for Joint Exercises

JN1708101195 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter with agency dispatches]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Amman—American servicemen started arriving in Jordan on Tuesday for joint military exercises — planned before the recent defection of a senior Iraqi official to the Kingdom — and the United States reiterated its commitment to defend Jordan against what Washington sees as a possible Iraqi threat.

More than 3,000 U.S. soldiers are expected to take part in the joint exercises, codenamed "Infinite Moonlight," which, Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir said Monday, were planned years ago as part of Jordanian-American military cooperation.

Equipment for the exercises were being unloaded at al-'Aqabah port on Tuesday, and a U.S. defence official said in Dubai that the Pentagon had decided to add warplanes to the manoeuvres. The planes will be based on the USS Theodore Roosevelt, which was expected to arrive in the Eastern Mediterranean on Wednesday. [passage omitted]

Nearly 4,000 Jordanian soldiers are expected to take part in the mock warfare exercises with the United States, which involve naval and land combat.

In Dubai, a Pentagon official said warplanes from the Roosevelt will join the war games,

The 10-day exercises had been planned for months but the decision to include the aircraft from the Roosevelt was taken in the last two days to give an "extra dimension" to the manoeuvres, said the official, quoted by AFP.

The U.S. soldiers are part of the Fifth Fleet, which covers the Gulf and Red Sea, while the warplanes from the Roosevelt are from the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean.

TV Reports on Military Exercises

JN1308182595 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Since their establishment, the Jordanian Armed Forces have worked hard on raising their training competence and combat readiness by establishing the strategy of joint exercises with several fraternal and friendly states. These exercises aim at exchanging military expertise and skills in the various fields of training and at taking advantage of the progress in the various fields of knowledge and the advanced and modern military sciences in order to raise the combat competence and reach professionalism and qualitative performance of the duties.

Within this framework, and as part of the plan for joint exercises, two joint military exercises will be conducted by units from the Jordanian Armed Forces and U.S. units between the period 18 August and the end of the first week of September. One will be conducted by a Jordanian infantry battalion and a U.S. Marine battalion and the other by a Jordanian Special Forces battalion and a U.S. Special Forces battalion.

Various support and logistics units, as well as Royal Jordanian Air Force warplanes and helicopters, will participate in these exercises.

Foreign Minister Meets With PLO's Faruq Qaddumi

JN1608204095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this evening received Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department. The meeting was attended by Yusuf Shakkur, assistant foreign minister; Taha al-Khayrat, director of the Arab Homeland Directorate; 'Abdallah Hurani and Shafiq al-Hut, members of the PLO Executive Committee; Hani al-Hasan and Muhammad Jihad, members of the Fatah Central Committee; and Mahmud al-Khalidi, PLO envoy in Damascus.

During the meeting, discussions dealt with the developments of the situation in the Arab arena and the developments of the peace process in the region.

Israeli 'Aggression' Towards Lebanon, Peace Viewed

JN1708082395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 16 Aug 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the title "Israeli Escalation," TISHRIN says the escalation of the Israeli aggression against Lebanon is the result of Israel's aggressive lust and strong desire to terrorize and confuse the Lebanese Government and place more obstacles before peace efforts in the region.

TISHRIN says Israel undertook intensive efforts to divide this country. After the failure of its designs, after Lebanon restored its health, and following a Lebanese consensus in support of the national resistance and on adherence to the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for an unconditional Israeli withdrawal from the south, Israel returned to the language of intimidation and aggression.

TISHRIN stresses that Israel's aggressive practices and continuous attempts to abort any international efforts toward realizing just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East will never terrorize Syria or Lebanon.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: Lebanon has openly declared that it will never bargain over Resolution 425 and the principle of restoring the whole of the south. Syria has also declared that there will never be peace without Israel's full withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines. Undoubtedly, Israel's refusal to continue the political talks in Washington is unequivocal evidence of Israel's failure to impose its hegemony on the Syrian-Lebanese will. Hence, the policy of aggression and escalation is an entrenchment of Israel's rejection of just peace in the region.

In an editorial entitled "The Aggression against Lebanon Obstructs Peace," AL-BA'TH speaks about Israel's aggression against Lebanon, saying that it seems that international forums are unconcerned with Israel's aggressive crimes. AL-BA'TH says the scales of justice are overturned, and the allegations of defending human rights become mere slogans when the forces that support Israel want to condemn the Arab resistance of the occupation.

Cables of condolence are sent denouncing the killing of an Israeli settler, but nobody makes a move when the issue is related to people besieged by Israel from the sea, and on whom Israel drops fire and cluster bombs.

AL-BA'TH stresses that Israel deliberately escalates its aggression against Lebanon whenever there are signs of relaxation in the interest of the peace process, as if the Israeli leadership is eager to sabotage the peace efforts and talks.

AL-BA'TH concludes: As long as Israel places obstacles through its rejected conditions and its deliberate aggressions, the peace process will not get rid of the stalemate plaguing it.

Joint Committee Meeting Held With Egypt Concludes

Radio Details Agreements Signed

JN1608202595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The eighth session of the Higher Syrian-Egyptian Joint Committee, held under the co-chairmanship of Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, concluded its meetings in Damascus today. [passage omitted]

The two sides then reviewed and approved the subcommittees' decisions and recommendations to entrench the march of integration and coordination between the two countries.

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi then signed the joint minutes of the meetings of the eighth session of the Higher Syrian-Egyptian Joint Committee. The minutes contain the approved decisions, recommendations, and issues related to foreign policy, economic and technical cooperation, planning, financial affairs, industry, agriculture, public works, water resources, electricity, energy, oil, housing, construction, utilities, transportation, communications, information, tourism, health, medicine, education, culture, scientific research, youths, sports, social insurances, labor force, awqaf and religious affairs, cooperation and coordination between both countries' interior ministries, and business.

A cooperation protocol was signed by the two countries' oil ministries. It was signed for the Syrian side by Dr. Nadir Nabulsi, minister of oil and mineral resources, and for the Egyptian side by Dr. Hamdi 'Ali al-Banbi, minister of petroleum and mineral resources.

Another agreement was also signed by the labor ministries of the two countries. It was signed for the Syrian side by 'Ali Khalil, minister of social affairs and labor, and for the Egyptian side by Ahmad Ahmad al-'Amawi, minister of manpower and employment.

Following the end of these meetings, Prime Minister Mahmud al- Zu'bi made a statement to reporters describing the results of the committee meetings as successful and positive. He said that these meetings have given a new push to bilateral relations and that they reviewed the march of integration and coordination between the two countries for the benefit of both countries and the Arab nation. They also focused, he said, on cooperation between the two countries in all areas and that several agreements were signed to this effect to carry out joint Syrian-Egyptian projects as Syria and Egypt are two fraternal countries that should give a good example of inter-Arab relations.

Dr. Sidqi also spoke to reporters, voicing gratitude for the hospitality he was accorded. He said that the results of the committee meetings in Damascus were positive from all angles and that a full understanding was reached on all the issues that were discussed. Dr. Sidqi described his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad yesterday as very positive. He said: We concluded that Arabs should have stronger relations and cooperation. He then wished the Syrian people every progress and prosperity. [passage omitted]

Editorial Views Meeting With Egypt

JN1608205295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 16 Aug 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an editorial entitled "Pan-Arab Meeting," AL-THAWRAH said: The Syrian-Egyptian coordination, consultation, and solidarity steps are consolidated day by day within the framework of fraternal relations that have pan-Arab objectives and contents. With the passage of time, these relations are taking practical dimensions that are embodied practically on the ground in the interest of the same Arab people in the two sisterly countries and the nation.

AL-THAWRAH stressed that deepening Syrian-Egyptian relations is a political demand and pan-Arab determination. This shows the reason of the qualitative and quantitative progress in these relations, and in a short time.

AL-THAWRAH added that Syrian-Egyptian cooperation has become one of the contemporary facts of our nation's life, and the meeting between Syria and Egypt always gives a hope of a shining and glorious future, away from the designs of the nation's enemies which seek to realize division, infighting, and absence of coordination, consultation, and solidarity.

AL-THAWRAH concluded: Syrian-Lebanese and Syrian-Egyptian relations give the greatest evidence on the importance of cooperation, coordination, consultation, and solidarity. The pan- Arab arena is demanded to accelerate unification of ranks and positions and revive pan-Arab issues so that one can speak about a capable and effective Arab position. The meeting between Syria and Egypt is the living example that gives confidence that a better future is the strongest way to repel threats and the necessary introduction for any pan-Arab victory.

Bangladesh

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

BK1608024695 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 0100 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan arrived in Dhaka last night on a three-day visit to Bangladesh. On his arrival, the Chinese minister said that Bangladesh is a close friend of China. He expressed the confidence that his talks with government leaders and officials will further strengthen the friendship and understanding between the two countries. He said that Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will be accorded a warm welcome by China when she visits Beijing to attend the world conference on women early next month.

Comments on 'Historic Bond' to Zia

BK1608162595 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1600 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The visiting Chinese vice foreign minister, Mr. Tang Jiaxuan, called on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in Dhaka today. Talking to her, the Chinese minister said China-Bangladesh ties passed the test of time and the Chinese people value most the historic bond of friendship between the two trusted nations. He lauded the prime minister's efforts in expanding the women education for their empowerment and development. Mr. Tang Jiaxuan praised the development in agricultural sector and said the two countries can gain by cooperation in this field. Begum Zia thanked the Chinese Government for providing assistance in constructing a number of important bridges and other (?fields). She sought Chinese help in the country's agriculture sector and generation of electricity.

Daily Stresses Regional Water Resource Cooperation

BK1108155395 Dhaka JANAKANTHA in Bengali 2 Aug 95 p 4

[Editorial: "Cooperation in the Sphere of Water Resources"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has stressed the need for regional cooperation to augment the water resources and to ensure their proper utilization for the welfare and prosperity of millions of people in South Asia. She noted the importance of water resources cooperation when Bharat Mohan Adhikari, Nepalese minister for finance and supplies, called on her in Dhaka. The Nepalese minister had come to Dhaka to attend the recently held ninth session of the Bangladesh-Nepal Joint Economic Commission [JEC]. Nepal has friendly ties with Bangladesh and is a member of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. Bangladesh's cooperative relation with Nepal is strengthening everyday. A vast scope still exists for further strengthening this relationship. Regional cooperation is very important for augmenting water resources and their proper use. This cooperation is extremely important in ensuring the welfare and prosperity of millions of people in South Asia, and the need for it has been emphasized by the prime minister.

It goes without saying that there is considerable scope for Dhaka-Kathmandu cooperation in water resources, which will benefit the two countries. It may be mentioned in this context that as the leader of the Bangladeshi delegation at the JEC meeting, Finance Minister Saifur Rahman highlighted the need for Dhaka-Kathmandu cooperation in water resources. He said that Nepal has the capacity to produce more hydroelectricity than that of the United States, adding that the electricity thus produced by Nepal will be enough to meet the electricity needs of all countries of this region. Nepal can become the richest state in this region if it's vast water resources can be properly tapped for the benefit of the people and the economic prosperity of this region. In this context, the finance minister referred to a number of proposals made by Bangladesh for launching several multipurpose projects for optimal and multifarious use of water resources. Bangladesh and Nepal belong to the same river basin. Therefore, he expressed the hope, that Nepal would not sign any bilateral agreement with others on any project for tapping water resources without giving Bangladesh its due share. He also hoped that Nepal would inform Bangladesh before taking up any project so as to enable us to decide whether we would participate in that project.

The Nepalese delegation leader said that Nepal will make every effort to help Bangladesh overcome its water management problem. Expressing deep concern over the problem of floods in Bangladesh, he said that his country will cooperate with Bangladesh in flood forecasting and reducing the intensity of floods.

The cooperation between Bangladesh and Nepal in various fields, especially in water resources, is of great importance. Such a cooperation will reap benefit not only for the two countries but for the entire region as well. If necessary steps are taken to give a concrete shape to the sincerity, eagerness, and shared views displayed by the two countries for cooperation in water resources, then it will serve a guideline for cooperation in this sphere. All avenues of cooperation between the two countries in water resources management should be identified and tapped so as to enable them and their people reap benefits — this is what we expect.

Intensified cooperation among South Asian countries in augmenting the water resources and their proper utilization will greatly contribute to the benefit and prosperity of millions of people in the South Asian region. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has emphasized this kind of cooperation.

It may be mentioned in this context that Bangladesh has always been ready for regional cooperation in the water resources sector. However, the response from some of its neighbors to this gesture has been inadequate. India is Bangladesh's biggest neighbor in the upper riparian region. Bangladesh has made every effort to secure a fair share of the Ganges River water from India. Deprived of this fair share for years, a vast area of Bangladesh went dry and is now going to become a desert. The problem is still unresolved. A few days ago, the Indian water resources minister said that the water problem in Bangladesh lasts only for three weeks during the dry season. The world community is not unaware of the unlimited damage incurred and being incurred by Bangladesh for having been deprived of water due to the Farakka Barrage constructed in India. The problem is not new either.

Being in the lower riparian, Bangladesh sometimes gets dry due to lack of water and sometimes gets inundated and flooded due to gushing of water from the upper region. Either way, this is causing damage worth millions of taka as well as loss of life, natural habitat, and property. This is the stark reality, no matter how one views it. And for Bangladesh this is a harsh reality, which brings disaster and causes irreparable damage. In India itself, criticism is being voiced about the Farakka Barrage. Therefore, as a responsibile big neighbor and for the sake of good-neighborly relations, India should extend its hands of cooperation to Bangladesh in the water sharing issue. If it does so, it will be beneficial to both the countries as well as the countries of this region. Expanding the area of cooperation between the countries of this region will boost the importance of regional cooperation and make it more meaningful. Failure to do so will make regional cooperation meaningless.

India

Al-Faran Issues 'First Statement' Since Killing

BK1708065395 Hong Kong AFP in English 0638 GMT 17 Aug 95

[Report by Izhar Wani]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SRINAGAR, India, Aug 17 (AFP) — An Indian government special envoy met with senior Kashmir officials here Thursday [17 August] to discuss securing the release of four Western tourists held by Muslim separatist militants, officials said.

V.K. Jain, a secretary in the home ministry, and members of the Kashmir government's crisis management group explored ways to bring about an end to the seven-week ordeal of the four Western hostages, they said.

Jain arrived in Srinagar, the Kashmir summer capital, on Wednesday with a "special brief" to help the Kashmir administration secure the release of the four captives, according to Indian government sources.

Al-Faran, the rogue Muslim separatist group which beheaded a Norwegian hostage over the weekend and threatened to kill the four other tourists, is demanding the release of 15 Muslim militants from Indian prisons.

The Indian government has publicly ruled out a swap to secure the freedom of the hostages, but sources close to the authorities said a "covert deal" could be worked out involving the release of five Kashmiri Muslim militants.

The Muslim-majority Kashmir Valley was paralyzed Thursday by a general strike for the third consecutive day. Shops, offices, banks, schools and markets were closed and traffic was off the roads, witnesses said.

Thursday's strike was called by a pro-Pakistan Muslim separatist group, the Al-Fatah Force, to mourn the death of former Pakistani president Mohammed Ziaul Haq in a plane crash on August 17, 1988.

Muslim separatist groups called a strike on Tuesday to disrupt celebrations of India's Independence Day and on Wednesday to protest the murder of Norwegian tourist Hans-Christian Ostro.

Ostro, 27, who was kidnapped by Al-Faran on July 8, was beheaded over the weekend. The words Al-Faran were carved into his chest and his body dumped near a remote village not far from where he was abducted.

Al-Faran, in its first statement since Ostro's death, described Westerners as "enemies of Islam" and urged Kashmiris not to observe the protest strike over the Norwegian's slaying [words indistinct] Al-Faran, in posters which appeared Wednesday in the southern Kashmir town of Anantnag, also said they were a group of Kashmiri Muslims and not foreign mercenaries as alleged by the Indian authorities.

"Al-Faran does not require certification from anybody. We ourselves know what we have to do. We do not need to be taught lessons," Al-Faran said.

"We will speak after a few days on why and how the foreigners were abducted as well as the later consequences," the group added.

In a reference to the strike called by other Muslim separatist groups to protest the death of Ostro, Al-Faran said: "No one should mourn the death of a Jew." The Norwegian was not believed to be Jewish.

Al-Faran, in a note left with Ostro's body, set Tuesday as a deadline for the Indian authorities to release the 15 Muslim militants from prison.

The group warned that Britons Paul Wells, 23, and Keith Mangan, 33, American Donald Hutchings, 42, and German Dirk Hasert, 26 could suffer the same fate as the Norwegian if the authorities failed to release the prisoners.

More than 12,000 people have died in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, since 1989.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training the guerrillas fighting to end Indian rule over the Himalayan territory, a charge denied by Islamabad.

Delhi Reports Contact With Abductors in Kashmir

BK1608130095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jammu and Kashmir Government is in contact with the kidnappers of the four foreign tourists and tried to persuade them to release their hostages immediately. Stating this in Srinagar today, a spokesman of the state government expressed the hope that the abductors will see reason and release the innocent tourists. The spokesman disclosed that the authorities had received a call from the abductors even today. He said the Crisis Management Group is keeping a constant watch over the situation.

'Special Emissary' To Assist in Hostages' Release

BK1608160695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Center has sent a special emissary to assist the Jammu and Kashmir administration in securing the safe release of the four hostages held by the Al-Faran outfit. The Home Ministry sources said the special secretary in the ministry, Mr. V.K. Jain, has reached Srinagar.

Meanwhile, the ambassadors of the United States, Britain and Germany met with the home secretary, Mr. S. Padmanabhiah, for the third consecutive day today.

Delhi Cites Foreign Support on 'Hostage Crisis'

BK1708040095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Several foreign countries have fully supported India's stand on the hostage crisis in Jammu and Kashmir. Reports say foreign governments including those whose nationals have been held by the Al-Faran outfit have appreciated India's stand against conceding the demands of the abductors for release of some militants. They pointed out that the global policy in all such crisis is not to free terrorists in exchange for hostages.

The representatives of the United States, Germany, and Britain are in constant touch with the Indian authorities. Their joint effort is aimed at ensuring the unconditional release of their nationals still under the militants' custody. Reports quoting Western diplomatic sources said the killing of the Norwegian tourist has turned public opinion in these countries against insurgency in Kashmir. One diplomat is reported to have expressed the view that propaganda by Pakistani lobbies will not have any effect on public opinion following the barbaric killing of the Norwegian tourist. As reported, the center has sent a special emissary to assist the Jammu and Kashmir administration in securing the safe release of the four remaining hostages held by the Al-Faran outfit.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the self-styled deputy chief and military adviser of the Harkatul Ansar militant outfit, Nawazul Haq alias Saifullah, was arrested by the Special Task Force of the state police from an undisclosed location yesterday. His two bodyguards were also arrested. The Inspector General of Police, Kashmir Range, Mr. P.S. Gill, told newspersons in Srinagar that the dreaded militant was involved in several incidents of attack on the security forces.

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir government has formulated a comprehensive policy for the militants who surrender. The policy is aimed at rehabilitating and encouraging militants to lead a normal life and contribute toward the progress of the state and the country. A spokesman of the state government said over 1,200 militants have so far surrendered giving up violence.

Pakistan's 'Responsibility' If 4 Hostages Killed

BK1708090695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Members in the Rajya Sabha today condemned the gruesome murder of the Norwegian hostage Hans-Christian Ostro by Al-Faran militants. Raising the issue during zero hour, Mr. I.K. Gujral, Janata Dal; said terrorism sponsored by Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir is causing concern not only in India but the entire world. He said Islamabad has adopted a game plan, in which, on the one hand, it is supporting terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir and, on the other, engineering bomb blasts at different places in the state. Mr. Sibte Razi, Congress-I; demanded that the remaining four hostages be freed immediately. He said if they are killed or harmed, the direct responsibility of such an act will be of Pakistan. Several opposition members also demanded that the government should make a statement on the subject.

Article Views 'Doubtful' Defense Ties With West

BK1108015495 Madras THE HINDU in English
9 Aug 95 p 12

[Article by Atul Aneja: "Limits to defence ties"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Four years after the collapse of the Soviet Union, India and the West have moved close enough to consider a defence tieup. But New Delhi may find that it has little in common to sustain the relationship.

A framework for upgraded defence cooperation is already in place. Key Western military powers want to work with India to safeguard the oil-rich Gulf and the Indian Ocean. Collaboration in military hardware is also on the agenda. Exchange of information on military tactics is another area of interest. Permanent apex bodies linking the South Block with its counterparts, capable of giving policy directions, have been established. But, in strategic terms, New Delhi is only interested in keeping peace in its backyard with an option to intervene, if required, thus limiting the scope for collaboration.

Containment of Iran and Iraq, the nations Washington sees as possible threats to oil supplies and trade from the region, is the cornerstone of the U.S. policy in the Gulf. The formulation is unlikely to be acceptable to India. On the contrary, New Delhi is cultivating Iran as a destination for trade and a gateway to the lucrative markets of resource-rich Central Asia. Friendship with Iran, also a key member of the Organisation of [the] Islamic Conference (OIC), is vital to keep Pakistan in check. Tehran, if it wants, can help remove the sting from the Pakistani bid to internationalise Kashmir from the 51 nation-Islamic platform. Besides, close ties with Iran are sought to deny Pakistan "strategic depth", in a future Indo-Pak conflict.

Iran has also sent out feelers to India to participate in a strategic understanding of four nations to counter U.S. influence in the region. "Cooperation among Iran, Pakistan, India and China will give no pretext for foreign forces to interfere in the region. We won't have the problem as in the Persian Gulf," the Iranian President, Mr. Hashemi Rafsanjani, told a New Delhi press conference here in April last.

In any case, strategic cooperation between India and the West is yet to takeoff. "There has been a flurry of visits by U.S. officials to India. Upgraded naval exercises have been held. But the two sides have not pinpointed common areas of strategic concern beyond their borders," a highly placed Defence Ministry official said.

In the absence of a common strategic platform at the moment, India can at the most agree to the U.S. Gulf-centred requests in non-combat areas alone. India could take a look at the U.S. desire for greater access for its warships from the Gulf to Goa and Cochin.

Washington is also exploring the possible use of Indian facilities to repair its ships. It is keen on an agreement with India for its "naval ships doing repairs at the Mazagon docks and making Cochin and Goa also permanent ports of calls for the U.S. Navy, which has a large deployments in the Persian Gulf," the visiting U.S. Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific fleet, Admiral Ronald J. Zlatoper, said in a New Delhi briefing in June.

But, without a grounding in common extra-regional goals, there are definite limits to cooperation in other areas including the sharing of military tactics. "The West is keen to learn from India tactics on desert and mountain warfare. India has plenty of experience in high altitude warfare because of the years in Siachen," an army officer said.

India has also benefited from the recently held joint naval exercises. The Navy could fine-tune its tactics to detect nuclear- powered submarines, two of which were fielded by the U.S. It also took a closer look at the P3C Orion plane brought in for the manoeuvres and now proposed for sale to Pakistan by the U.S. The U.S., also for the first time, saw the Soviet-origin Kilo class submarines India had fielded at close quarters. But interest in these areas can get exhausted, unless the defence agenda is expanded. The possibility of the relationship running out of steam cannot be ruled out. Committed to self-reliance in military hardware production, India is not an attractive market for Western weaponry. The Minister of State for Defence, Mr. Mallikarjun, for instance, recently said that 70 per cent of Indian military hardware requirements would be met by domestic defence production by the year 2005. It is, thus, unlikely that military hardware trade can propel defence ties.

In fact, India's commitment to self-reliance is likely to be reinforced by recent examples of politically-backed export restrictions. "There is a lesson for India in the restriction of F- 16 supplies to Pakistan by the United States. The Indian defence establishment will hate to be cornered thus," a defence expert here said.

According to a source in the Defence Ministry, off-the-shelf purchases by India will be highly selective. "We would buy full systems only in select areas or to fulfil interim demands till an indigenous equipment gets fully developed. We also encourage joint ventures, for this is the only path to self-reliance," he said.

But the West can supply components that go into making Indian-designed equipment, part of the Plan-2005, a 10-year project on self-reliance. The plan, now cleared, has been authored by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

According to Air Chief Marshal S.K. Kaul, "The 10-year programme, as part of the plan for indigenisation, is directed towards reequipping as and when required. We have thus designed, developed and produced the Arjun tank, the Prithvi and Akash missiles, the Rajendra phased array radar, etc. The other problem is related to spares for which we are spending more than [rupees] Rs. 1000 crores... We now want to utilise our own technological base so that we can do something ourselves."

The project, also for the first time, seeks to involve private industry in a big way in the production of hi-technology items and this could spinoff knowhow for exports, now emerging as a priority in the military production sector.

The West could also get involved as a system supplier for value addition in upgrading and export-oriented projects recently undertaken by New Delhi and Moscow. For instance, the contract between India and Russia to upgrade the Soviet origin MiG-21 fighter planes with India has kept open the option of shopping for components and systems from overseas vendors. Israel has already availed itself of the opportunity and is reported to have provided hi-technology items. New Western-origin long range weapons including missiles could also be accommodated on the plane to enable it to target at long distances.

Many ships from the former Soviet Union with India have Western systems. Besides, India is working on mounting a Western-origin gun on the engine driven chassis of a T-72 tank, built by Moscow but now produced at Avadi, to make mobile Self-propelled guns. But all the "hybridisation" projects can absorb only small quantities of western hardware.

The West's involvement in India's bid to emerge as a cost- effective arms exporter by combining the knowledge of Soviet-origin hardware with indigenous and Western knowhow cannot be much. "Even the former Eastern European allies of Moscow do not have the detailed drawings of equipment which we do. Very few countries have the dimensions and the metallurgy used. Besides, we also understand Western systems well," a Defence Ministry source said.

According to the official, India sees a market in select countries in West Asia and North Africa, besides Vietnam in South- East Asia. "Most countries with Soviet-origin system do not have the money to buy new replacements. The best option for them is to get this hardware upgraded by fitting in powerful western systems. We see an opportunity to do business in this trend," he said.

Bilateral tieups with Western firms were recently worked out, but these could run out of breath fast. India and France, for instance, have decided on an arrangement to overhaul the Mirage-2000 planes. Paris will supply the parts while New Delhi will provide the manpower, thus cutting down repair costs. Though the system-centred hardware trade has started moving, its ability to propel a defence relationship to new heights is doubtful.

Official Addresses Investments, Enron 'Scrapping'

BK1108095495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 11 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The executive director of the Singapore-Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. George Abraham, says the scrapping of the Enron project by the Maharashtra Government will have no effect on investment in India by Singaporean and Malaysian companies. He said India offers a booming market and many states have not changed their attitudes toward foreign investment. Mr. Abraham said trade between Singapore and India increased by about 30 percent during the first six months this year. Singapore's investment in India has also moved up during the same period. Reports quoting Japanese and American businessmen, however, say that they may reconsider fresh investments in India.

Renegotiation of Enron Deal Said 'Not Ruled Out'

BK1208163295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Maharashtra deputy chief minister, Mr. Gopinath Munde, has not ruled out the possibility of renegotiating a fresh proposal of Enron. Talking to newspersons in Ahmadabad today, he, however, said that there is no such proposal right now. Mr. Munde was in the city to participate in the meeting of the council of chief ministers of BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] ruled states.

Sri Lankan Peace Package Called 'Bold Attempt'

BK1108131995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 11 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi has described the package offered by President Kumaratunga of Sri Lanka for devolution of powers as a bold attempt to resolve the ethnic issue. Responding to a query, an External Affairs Ministry spokesman said this requires a more serious consideration of all concerned. Describing it as a positive step, he recalled that India has consistently stood for a peaceful political solution of the crisis.

Minister Views Detained LTTE Suspects' Escape

BK1608092095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, has said the center has conveyed its concern to the Tamil Nadu government on the escape of 43 suspected LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] detainees yesterday. He said the government is determined to root out the threat of the LTTE from Indian soil. Mr. Pilot was responding to the concern expressed by several members on the escape during zero hour in the Lok Sabha today. Raising the issue, Mr. Manishankar Iyer, Congress-I demanded the resignation of Tamil Nadu chief minister on this escape as some of them [were] responsible for the assassination of Prime Minister Mr. Rajiv Gandhi. However, the AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] members urged the house not to politicize the issue and pointed out that the state government has already ordered a judicial inquiry into the incident.

In Kerala, a general alert has been sounded and security tightened following the escape of LTTE militants from Vellore jail. This was disclosed by the chief minister, Mr. A.K. Antony, in Thiruvananthapuram today. As reported, a general alert was earlier sounded in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Pondicherry following the escape of LTTE militants from Vellore jail. A massive hunt has been launched to nab them.

BJP, BSP Alliance Seen Doomed by Elections

95AS0465A Varanasi AJ in Hindi 20 Jul 95 p 1, 9

[Article by Amitabh Agnihotri: "BJP Will Not Enter the Election Arena With BSP"]

[FBIS Translated Text] New Delhi, 19 July. Bharatiya Janata Party's [BJP] central leadership has indicated its disapproval in continuing its present affinity with the Bahujan Samaj Party [BSP] in Uttar Pradesh to face the forthcoming election. It is a different matter that BSP chief Kansi Ram is [also] not in favor of an election alliance with BJP.

A BJP national general secretary in an informal talk with AJ clearly stated that it was not possible for the BJP to join hands with BSP in the upcoming elections. The utterances from the strategists from BJP and BSP indicate that during the elections in Uttar Pradesh these parties will march to different tunes.

The BSP has, however, kept its doors open to all alternates. It is not certain whether it will seek support from the Congress or the Sanyukat Morcha (United Front). It is well known that the BSP is presently engaged in political discussions with all three parties and doors are open for any or all alternatives. Also, Kansi Ram does not intend to lessen his political worth by taking any early decision before the elections.

On the other hand the BJP indicators depict that in Uttar Pradesh the party favors both the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections at the same time. According to a senior party member of Parliament it will be necessary to activate the lower most echelon of the party for the elections in the Province. With the Vidhan Sabha elections held simultaneously the party will benefit from the legislators endless effort till the end. This will make it easier to win the Lok Sabha seats. Several BJP legislators believe that in the event Vidhan Sabha elections are not held the legislators will not be fully active. This can adversely effect the party showing in the Lok Sabha elections, and at this time BJP's prime concern is its standing in the Lok Sabha elections. But the BJP, at any cost, will not send a message that it is working to bid goodbye to Mayawati government. In the words of a party strategist, "the BSP will itself desire the Lok Sabha elections to be held simultaneously with the Vidhan Sabha elections in the Province. We do not have to do anything. The BSP signals also indicate that it does not favor running its government for any [significant] length of time. It would want to face the elections with a manifesto of its own. To run the BJP supported government is also not in its best interest".

The BJP has initiated formulation of its election strategy. In the context of Uttar Pradesh the strategy leadership has in mind does not have a place for any relationship with the BSP. The BJP is proceeding on the theory that if during the elections BSP initiates an offensive against it, that may not meaningfully sway the backward classes. This is because the BSP will not be able to authenticate its story after having run its government with BJP support.

A young party national general secretary commenting on the current state of BJP-BSP relationship states, "If they (BSP) show goodwill for us we will reciprocate it but if they speak against us we will match their style." BJP's intentions are obvious. It is supporting the BSP government but in the wake of its helplessness of this support it shall not tolerate any attack on its election interests. The party strategy on the issue of reservation policy for Muslims is similarly sharp. The subject is directly linked to its election expectations.

The BJP aims to use the time till the elections to attract BSP grass root support. It has already done the planning in collaboration with its sister organization Vishav Hindu Parishad (VHP) to do so. At the same time, the BSP during its tenure in office is wooing Mulayam Singh Yadav's support base. Following this strategy it is taking aim at Muslims and Yadavs too which are considered Mulayam Singh's. BSP has started its movement in this direction by holding "Yadav Rallies" and with a reservation policy for Muslims.

Keeping this in view a senior BJP leader believes that "if BSP is able to captivate a portion of Mulayam Singh's support base, and if we can convince the oppressed class that they are welcome in our camp and we can install their leaders in high positions, then we will have Uttar Pradesh to ourselves."

The BJP has extended an open arms invitation to the "oppressed" class by launching a fortnight long festivity "Samarsatta" at the time of "Rakshabandhan" (a pious Hindu annual festival when sisters tie a cotton thread on their brother's hand). During this period the BJP will try to propagate among this class that it is very pleased to bestow the chief ministership on them. It will thus send signals to the "oppressed" class that they are equal partners in its power sharing and organization.

On the other hand, the VHP in its "one soul" tours will originate a great movement of social "samarsatta". This effort will also aim at the BSP support base. Through religious figures [sadhus, sadhvis and sants], the BJP will augment its position and will make it more convincing. During this effort the sadhus and sants will stay in "oppressed" neighborhoods and food will be provided to all by public kitchens.

The BJP is not interested in Mulayam Singh's support base. It never had any meaningful relationship with this faction. Mayawati has her eyes set on it. The BJP believes that the gains to their party will be proportional to whatever extent Mayawati succeeds in weakening Mulayam Singh.

Iran

Paper Comments on Western Peace Plan for Bosnia

LD1708094595 Tehran IRNA in English
0722 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 17, IRNA — The West is now contemplating buying peace in the former Yugoslavia by forgiving the criminal Serbs, said the morning daily TEHRAN TIMES here Thursday [17 August].

Commenting on the recent peace plan of the West for the Bosnian crisis, the English-language paper wrote in its editorial that after all atrocities have been committed by the Serbs, now they would be forgiven, if they agreed with the Western peace plan.

"Now that the atrocities have been committed, now that they didn't do anything to stop them, they say to the Serbs: if you agree to our plan for peace, then we will pretend you have never murdered and raped. We forgive you," said the editorial.

This is called the price for peace, added the article, arguing "the price for peace is, in short, that there is no moral fibre left in humanity. The blood has been spilt, the guns have been silenced, each side has its negotiated land, now what difference does it make that a 28-year-old Muslim woman was raped in a stadium by 28 Serbs, 28 times?"

The paper noted that for fifty years the West has said, "we will never let it happen again. Since we have seen 'it' happened again and again, in cambodia in the 70s, in Rwanda and Bosnia in the 90s, these words now sound hollow. Unless, of course, the West meant, we will never let it happen again — to Jews."

The paper argued that the civilized world looked the other way, since they didn't have sufficient interests in the Balkans. "For example, the Balkans didn't have Kuwait's oil," concluded the paper.

Refugee Repatriation Accord With Iraq Rejected

LD1308163795 Tehran IRNA in English
1623 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sanandaj, Kurdestan Prov., Aug. 13, IRNA — Director General of the Interior Ministry's Department for Foreign Refugees, 'Ahmad Hoseyni here on Sunday [13 August] rejected existence of any accord between Iran and Iraq to repatriate Iraqi refugees living in Iran.

Speaking in a press conference, he said repatriation of Iraqi refugees is conditional upon safety guarantee to be given by Iraqi government.

He said 600,000 Iraqi refugees are living in Iran and the Interior Ministry will extend their green cards from late September.

He put the total figure of foreign refugees living in Iran at 2,500,000.

Hoseyni said the United Nations sources predicted that about 50,000 of Iraqi refugees will head for home voluntarily.

He said the refugees living in Iran are mainly Afghan and Iraqi and 100,000 of those were given shelter in refugee camps and border areas.

One Hundred Iraqi POW's Said Released at Border

LD1708103595 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] To mark the sixth anniversary of the day our country's proud POW's returned to the Islamic homeland, 100 Iraqi POW's were released this morning. The Iraqi POW's were taken to the Khosravi border post to be handed over to the Iraqi authorities.

According to a report of the Central News Unit, Brigadier-General Najafi, head of the commander in chief's information bureau and head of the commission for POW affairs, speaking to reporters, said: The proposal to release the 100 Iraqi POW's was put to His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, commander in chief of the armed forces and esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution, and his eminence agreed with the proposal. [video shows the official speaking to reporters]

He pointed out that in 1369 [year from 21 March 1990 to 20 March 1991] a total of 37,934 Iraqi POW's were exchanged with 37,532 Iranian POW's on a total of 32 separate occasions. There have been further exchanges of POW's since then. That is, from 1370 until 1373 [ending 20 March 1995] more than 3,000 Iraqi POW's and over 500 Iranian POW's were exchanged.

Minister Pays Official Visit to South Africa

Views Nuclear Program, U.S. Charges

LD1608192895 Tehran IRNA in English 1914 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cape Town, Aug. 16, IRNA — Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here today dismissed U.S. allegations against Iran as "baseless", and said the Vienna-based IAEA as an impartial referee has time and again confirmed the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme.

"Iran signed the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1970 and this year it gave vote to its renewal," Velayati told members of the foreign commission of the South African National Assembly.

On the other U.S. allegation of Iran's support for terrorism, Velayati said it was indicative of Washington's "one-track support for the Zionist state of Israel and its enmity with Muslims".

He added: "such allegations were because of the moral support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hezbollah and the people of Lebanon for liberation of their land from Zionist occupation."

Velayati told the South African parliamentarians that "hezbollah is an officially recognized political party which has deputies elected to that country's parliament, and which, with the support of the governments of Lebanon, Syria and Iran, is standing beside the Lebanese people against the aggression of Israel."

He said it was Israel which should pressured to withdraw from southern Lebanon on the basis of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 425.

"No free nation would call support for liberation of Lebanese soil from Zionist occupation as 'support for terrorism', and the Islamic Republic of Iran is supporting the hezbollah of Lebanon for this legitimate right."

Comments on U.S. 'Interference'

LD1608163195 Tehran IRNA in English 1321 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cape Town, Aug. 16, IRNA — The U.S. cannot dictate other countries to limit their relations with Iran, said the visiting Foreign Minister of Iran 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Wednesday [16 August] in a press conference.

Referring to the U.S. protest to South Africa for its economic cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran, Velayati said this is a clear case of American interference in the internal affairs of South Africa.

He stressed that it is the legitimate right of any country to decide on its relations with other countries.

Asked on the impact of the U.S. economic sanctions against Iran, Velayati said Iran attached no importance to the issue because this is not the first time that U.S. has imposed sanctions on Iran.

After the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Iran from time to time has been subject to U.S. sanctions. However, Washington has failed to continue its embargoes against Iran despite all its pressures.

It is time that the U.S. realized that it could not interfere in internal affairs of other countries. Tehran and Cape

Town will go ahead with their plans to serve their national interests and from Iran's point of view the U.S. is of no importance, he told the reporters.

Asked about U.S. measures against Iran, Velayati said most of the American people and officials disagreed with Washington's policies and said that no doubt Washington will fail to reach its objectives.

Commenting on Iran's support for Bosnian people, the foreign minister noted that following up the issue of Bosnia was a priority in Iran's foreign policy and stressed that Tehran was serious in its support for Bosnian people.

Velayati said that the recent decision of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on rejecting the U.N. arms embargo against Bosnia was an effective measure in support of the oppressed Bosnians.

The Iranian Foreign Minister added that Iran was to make use of the South African facilities to store its oil in that country and added that constructive talks have been held in this respect.

Meanwhile, foreign minister of South Africa, Alfred Nzo, said that he held constructive talks with his Iranian counterpart on bilateral cooperation. He added that as a major oil producing country, Iran can meet Cape Town's demands.

Velayati arrived in Cape Town Tuesday on a week-long visit.

Comments on Talks, U.S. 'Pressures'

LD1608175995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As we have already reported, on the second day of his visit to South Africa Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati described the results of his talks with that country's officials as fruitful. I draw your attention to an interview that one of our colleagues has conducted with Mr. Velayati.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Velayati, will you tell our listeners about your talks with the South African officials as well as your assessment of those talks?

[Velayati] I must tell you that fortunately our work with the South Africans has made great progress in all its aspects and our talks have resulted in the signing of an agreement for setting up a joint committee by the two countries. Such a joint commission is in reality a framework that depicts the future of the relations between the two countries. Five sub-committees have been envisaged within the commission. These committees will be set up by Esfand of this year [last month of Iranian year beginning 21 March 1995] and everything will be ready for the first meeting of the joint commission in Tehran before the end of the current year. The foreign ministers of the two countries will be participating in that meeting. Bearing in mind the extensive resources of the two countries of Iran and South Africa, we believe that we will be able to increase our relations.

The speed of the progress of our relations signifies the existence of extensive and multifarious resources. Fortunately we reached positive results quite quickly. Not only are we going to have close and all-round cooperation in our bilateral relations, but we will also be extending our regional cooperation.

Iran will act as a link between South Africa and the new republics from the former Soviet Union, and South Africa as a connection point between Iran and the whole of the African continent — especially the black Africa — and southern Africa. Another issue that we have agreed on is international cooperation.

On the whole we predict the future of relations between the two countries to be very bright.

[Correspondent] Mr. Velayati, we have heard in the news that America has repeatedly expressed its objection to the expansion of ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and South Africa. What is your assessment of the pressures that America has exerted on South Africa in this regard?

[Velayati] What we have understood from the South African authorities and their statements is that the country moves according to its national interests and arranges its relations with Iran on that basis and will do so in the future. Therefore South Africa stood up to U.S. pressures and despite the many threats and warnings by America to the effect that South Africa should refrain from expanding its ties with Iran, as I said, an extensive memorandum of understanding was signed between us yesterday, which indicates South Africa's resolution to advance its relations with Iran toward the national interests of the two countries. I must say that some high-ranking South African authorities explicitly rejected U.S. pressures and unwarranted expectations in front of journalists and said that we are an independent nation and move according to our own interests. [end recording]

We thank Foreign Minister Velayati very much for taking part in the interview.

Addresses Approved Oil Deal

LD1708103395 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In a telephone conversation with Mr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, we asked him about the present state of relations between Iran and South Africa and also about the remaining agenda of his visit.

[Begin recording] [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Velayati: We know that an oil deal has been signed between Iran and South Africa. Please tell us more about the deal.

[Velayati] The oil deal between the Islamic Republic of Iran and South Africa has already undergone its preliminary stages. The deal is made up of two parts. The first part involves the sale of around 300,000 barrels of oil per day from the Islamic Republic of Iran to South Africa. The second part is to do with the storage of Iranian oil in South Africa's large and modern storage tanks. By using these facilities, our oil ministry will be able to sell oil in this part of the world with greater ease and convenience. [end recording]

Tehran Radio Views Relations

NC1608174995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 16 Aug 95

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Velayati's visit to South Africa, reciprocating one to Iran by the South African foreign minister and paving the way for broadening relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the strongest economy on the African continent, marks a new chapter in bilateral relations.

Before the Islamic Revolution, South Africa was an important trading partner; our country invested extensively in the South African oil industry. After Islamic Revolution victory the Islamic Republic of Iran—based on its policy of rejecting racial discrimination—severed its relations with the racist South African regime until last year, when just and free elections were held in South Africa. The black majority assumed power and the apartheid system was toppled.

Since then Iran's relations with South Africa have changed and moved on the road to expansion. Last year trade between the two countries exceeded $10 million. In view of favorable circumstances and the two sides' desire to broaden cooperation, it is predicted that commercial exchanges will soon register a manifold increase.

Agreements signed between Tehran and Pretoria will provide access to African markets, especially in the southern regions. And the Islamic Republic of Iran will be an appropriate transit route for South Africa to the markets of Central Asia and the Caucasus.

South Africa is the only industrial country in the African continent and the most opulent. While it is undergoing economic reconstruction, it has immense scope for the export of industrial products. It can also assist our country in the transfer of various kinds of technology.

Bilateral cooperation in the political and economic fields, which has been facilitated by the independent and progressive stance adopted by South Africa, is conducive to expanding relations between two potential economic poles, that is, the Economic Cooperation Organization and the economic community of South Africa.

The meetings of high-level Iranian delegations with leading South African Government and parliamentary officials indicates the importance the two countries attach to relations.

Paper Details Province's Trade With Central Asia

NC1308173395 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 7 Aug 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the director general of commerce for Mazandaran Province, 26,400 tons of goods worth 20 billion rials have been traded between Mazandaran Province and the Central Asian republics.

According to IRNA, Hoseyn Safari added: Of these, 25,000 tons of goods valued at 18,560,000 rials were imports, and 1,500 tons [figures as publlished] of goods worth 1,385,000,000 rials were exported.

He said: Most of the exported goods consisted of agricultural products, household appliances, textiles, fruits, and construction materials while the imports consisted of newsprint, printing paper, steel staples, gas turbines, and asbestos pipes.

The director general of commerce for Mazandaran Province added: At present 3,800 regional traders have been issued peddlers' cards for commercial exchanges with Turkmenistan.

Trade between Mazandaran Province and the Central Asian republics began in practice in 1371 [year beginning 21 March 1992] at the border customs post at the Nowshahr bridge and port.

According to the statistics of Mazandaran Province's commerce department, 26 billion rials worth of miscellaneous goods have been exported from this region to the Central Asian republics, Russia, and Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan Said Urged To Pursue Regional Interests

LD1208065895 Tehran IRNA in English
0640 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 12, IRNA — Iran is ready to have sound and solid relations with all its neighbors based on mutual respect and non-interference in each others' internal affairs, a morning daily wrote Saturday [12 August].

"Since the Azerbaijan Republic gained independence four years ago the Islamic Republic has consistently supported it both materially and morally," the English-language IRAN NEWS added.

It stated that when its neighbor, the Armenian Republic, attacked and seized the Azeri enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, Iran was the first country to voice concern and condemn Yerevan.

"Iran hosted hundreds of thousands of refugees who became homeless due to the Armenian invasion of Azeri territory," the editorial stressed.

But unfortunately the government of President Aliyev showed no visible signs of goodwill in return, it underlined.

The reason is clear, it said adding, "the Zionists and the pro- Zionist American lobby are active in Baku trying to safeguard their own financial interests rather than Azerbaijan's national and regional interests."

The article stressed that over the past few years, observers have noted that the Zionist lobby in Baku has increased its activities which are naturally directed against the Islamic Republic and other regional countries.

On September 20, 1994, Azerbaijan signed dlrs. 8 billion worth of contracts with a consortium of mostly American and European companies, it said. In principle, it was decided that Iran would participate in the exploration of three oil wells in the Caspian Sea.

The Zionists and their American allies were alarmed and forced the Azeri Government to renege on its commitment to the Islamic Republic, it said, adding that Iran's share, five percent of the oil deal, and the plan for the pipeline via Iran were scrapped by the government of President Aliyev.

"The Azerbaijan Republic and other republics of the former Soviet Union should realize that it is never in their national or regional interests to allow American or Zionist influence dictate their policies," IRAN NEWS suggested.

President Geydar Aliyev, talking to Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati last week, announced that the people of his country favored expansion and consolidation of relations with Tehran, the daily wrote. Aliyev should know very well that Iranians feel the same way about their brotherly neighbors in Azerbaijan and all other countries in the close proximity of the Islamic Republic, it added.

If the Azeri president reviews the history of the region, the daily reiterated, he will reach the conclusion that national and regional interests are more important than compliance with outside interests such as those of the Zionists or any other power from outside the region.

It underlined that countries that did not realize the importance of this fact suffered severe economic and political losses.

"We are not suggesting that we should build a wall around our countries," it stressed, "what we are saying is that there should be a clear line drawn between national, regional and other interests."

The regional countries have all that is needed to explore their God-given gifts, the paper said concluding, "what we need to learn is how to rely on our own resources."

Georgia Envoy Views 'Turning Point' in Relations

LD1308151395 Tehran IRNA in English
0838 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 13 (IRNA) — Iran's envoy in Georgia said the visit to Tbilisi of President Rafsanjani was a turning point in the history of bilateral relations of the two countries.

In an exclusive interview, printed in the Sunday [13 August] issue of IRAN NEWS, Fereidn Haqbin stated that grounds were prepared for the takeoff of bilateral ties along better and broader lines.

"President Ranfsanjani's visit last april to Tbilisi provided the necessary incentives for both countries to join hands in various areas of cooperation," Haqbin said.

He noted that officials of both countries were exploring avenues for reciprocal cooperation in eight major industrial projects for which accords were signed during the president's visit to Georgia.

During President Rafsanjani's visit, Iran and Georgia agreed to have cooperation in the fields of machine building, electronics, mines, chemicals, electromechanic and textile industries, the paper quoted him as saying.

The envoy further remarked that Iran's ministry of energy as well would cooperate with Georgia for repair and maintenance of its power plants in the Caucasus.

Underlining the importance of the visit to Iran of Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze on June 19, 1993, Haqbin said that exchange of high-level visits by officials of the two countries was a guarantee for sound and fair reciprocal relations.

"One of the most important areas of bilateral cooperation is transportation for which details are currently being worked out," said the envoy, adding that Georgia, after finalizing the transportation accord, would be able to use Iranian transit facilities for its import and export businesses.

Haqbin noted that the second meeting of the Irano-Georgian Ministrerial Commission for Economic, Commercial and Technical Cooperation would be held in Tbilisi in the last week of September.

The envoy believed that Tehran and Tbilisi would make significant decisions in economic, commercial and cultural fields for bilateral cooperation.

"Based on its foreign policy, the Islamic Republic supports the territorial integrity of Georgia," Haqbin said and stressed that Iran and Georgia have centuries-old friendly relations.

Envoy Praises Qatari Relations, 'Good Will'

LD1208100295 Tehran IRNA in English
0736 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 12, IRNA — A senior Iranian diplomat told a morning daily that Iran has strong potentials for promoting ties with Qatar as illustrated by the ever-increasing expansion of relations since 1989.

Iran's Ambassador to Doha Baqer Safa'i in an iterview with the English-language daily IRAN NEWS, printed on Saturday [12 August], added that when the Persian Gulf was over, Iran chose a very appropriate stance by improving its ties with other Persian Gulf states, especially with Qatar.

He pointed out that in 1989 Shaykh Kalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani assumed power as crown prince and appointed his allies to key positions leading to friendly ties with Iran. Shaykh Hamad is the architect of close ties with Iran, Safa'i said.

Safa'i further pointed out that Qatar sent its country's number two political leader as well as a mission to Iran to convey the country's condolences for the death of Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni. All these prove the Qataris' good will and show they are trying to consolidate ties with Iran.

He said the future for such ties is very clear. The two countries have so far signed 13 letters of understanding in addition to three commrercial, labor and educational accords in which 10 Iranian college students are studying in Qatar while 15 Qatari students continue their education in Iran.

Safa'i added that a vocational training center would be opened for Iranian workers in Qatar.

Both sides are trying to strengthen ties, the Iranian ambassador said. Qatar has asked the Islamic republic to establish an economic center for export of Iranian products in that state and both countries are negotiating the allocation of 10,000 or 20,000 sq.m. of land by Qatar for this purpose, added the ambassador.

So far 14 missions from the two countries have exchanged visits and further exchanges are planned for the near future, Safa'i said.

During his recent visit to Iran, Qatar's foreign minister said the foundation for consolidating ties with Iran is very strong, Safa'i said, adding that "as a member of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) Qatar's positive viewpoints about Iran are very valuable to us."

He continued: "Qatar's emphasis is on solving the regional problems by the region's states, rejecting other countries' intervention."

The iranian ambassador further stressed that according to certain agreements, Qatar's agriculture and defense ministers will meet with Iranian officials in mid-1995.

Meanwhile, Iran has agreed to supply Qatar with desalinated water.

Navy Reportedly Receives 'Highly Sensitive Systems'

LD1608205095 Tehran IRNA in English
2038 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bandar Abbas (Hormuzgan), Aug. 16, IRNA — Seven highly sensitive systems used in warships, were put into operation at Persian Gulf port over recent days, an Iranian army official announced here Wednesday [16 August].

The systems, mainly electronic and computer, were fully designed by Iranian experts and engineers, added head of the research and self-sufficiency jihad department of the first zone of the Islamic Republic Naval Force, Hassan Hojabri.

Effects of Lowering, Fixing Foreign Exchange Viewed

95LA0316A Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 15, 16, 17 Jul 95

[Report by Taj Mohammad Kazemi]

[15 Jul, p 5]

[FBIS Translated Text] **About two months have passed since the implementation of the new plan to stabilize the foreign currency rate. During this period, what has passed in the trading market in the country has been nothing but indecision. In other words, neither the producer nor the consumer knows what to do.**

Where do we find the rules for this decision? Does the dollar have such an influence on the national economy that it can effect everything with the flick of a finger?

Before the stabilization of the foreign currency rate was announced, all eyes were glued to the rising rate of the dollar on the open market. The consumer was greedily buying, because the value of the rial was declining at every moment, and in converting his rials to goods or foreign currency, he was trying to prevent further losses.

On 30 Ordibehesht [20 May] this year, the rate of 3,000 rials [R] to the dollar was established and enthusiasm in the market fell. The buyer stopped buying, hoping that with the decision regarding the rate of foreign currency, prices would also decrease. No longer was buying a means for him to gain revenues and protect the power of his rials. Is this the whole story? Or should we still wait for the effects and symptoms of this plan to appear one after another?

A Dollar for 300 Tumans

Based on the bylaws on regulating the export foreign currency market that was ratified by the government, the value of a dollar up to the end of 1374 [20 March 1996] was announced at R3,000. This made newspaper headlines on 31 Ordibehesht [21 May] this year. The most important reasons the government made this decision, according to the newspapers on that day, were:

—regulating the foreign currency market;
—returning the foreign currency obtained from non-oil exports to the country and making desirable use of them by observing the priorities;
—providing the needed foreign currency for the import of raw materials and machinery and other needs of the production units;
—providing foreign currency for importing the general needs and necessary services;
—protecting the value of the rial;
—preventing foreign currency exchange in domestic transactions;
—proper support for the increase in non-oil exports.

These are the goals that the government is trying to reach by resorting to this plan, goals that previously too have been emphasized in the form of determined government duties in the ratified laws and bylaws in various forms. The question is, what factors caused the government to engage in such an action?

In response to this question, economic analyst Dr. Bahman Arman says: These factors can be studied from two perspectives: internal and external. In explaining the internal perspective, referring to lack of international and domestic grounds to create a single foreign currency rate in the country, he says: The strong dependence of the national economy on imported items has provided the most important grounds for this government decision. He explains: The national economy is seriously dependent abroad, both in terms of goods needed for the industries in the form of machinery and equipment for the production lines and spare parts and also in terms of raw materials needed by the industrial units. He says: This dependence also exists in consumer goods in very vast areas, and from this perspective, we may be one of few such economies in the world.

Then, referring to the factions that in the external perspective provided the grounds for the recent government action, he says:

The somewhat problematic management of the foreign debts and credits obtained by the government along with the sudden decline in the price of oil on the world market and the decrease in the purchasing power of the dollar, which is the foreign currency in our oil transactions, all together prepared the grounds for the government to see itself suddenly in a position that it could no longer tolerate nor could it continue the floating foreign currency rate in the country. He points out: For this reason, the government followed the policy of foreign currency rate stabilization, and in order for the owners of the industries to give sufficient guarantees regarding the export and import foreign currency rate, it considered the stabilized foreign currency rate for them and also lowered the level of use in other sectors.

In this part of his statement, Dr. Arman refers to the recent report in the newspapers indicating that a significant amount of smuggled goods enter the country every day, and says: Naturally, a major part of foreign currency demand in the country is mainly for importing smuggled goods, which enter the country through the borders and free zones. Under such conditions, along with the stabilization of the rate of foreign currency, the government engaged in putting severe restrictions on the entry of smuggled goods into the country.

Stating that the plan to stabilize the rate of foreign currency is not a new policy, he points out: European countries also, in the course of the years following World War II, imposed restrictions on the transfer of foreign currency and also, in order to stabilize the bases of economic development and provide guarantees to those engaged in production, as a tool, stabilized the rate of foreign currency for several decades. He adds: It is natural that at a time when the rates change every day, the rate of inflation also consequently increases, and as a result the investor does not have sufficient confidence.

What Do People Say?

In the beginning, it appeared that with the stabilization of the rate of foreign currency, the price of goods and services which somehow were related to the dollar would also begin to decrease. This was the expectation that people, especially the low-income strata, were waiting for impatiently and optimistically. Naturally, when the uncontrolled increase in prices was tied to the increase in the foreign currency rate by the designers of the financial and monetary programs of the country, the people would expect the rapid effects of the stabilization of the rate of foreign currency on prices, but after two months—since the stabilization of the rate of the dollar—have the people's expectations really been realized?

I asked this question of a 50-year-old man who was staring at shoes behind the window of a Shahr-e Rusta Store. Introducing himself as Madanipur, he responds: The market is now stagnant, and the prices are not stabilized. A tailor adds: Of course, after the announcement of the plan to stabilize the rate of foreign currency, the prices came down somewhat, but they have gone up again. In this connection, he mentions fabrics, which according to him have once again increased in price in the past two or three weeks. He believes that if the government keeps the rate of the dollar at the present level and controls it decisively, the situation will gradually improve.

Ahmad Nowruzi, who says he is not employed anywhere, believes that the plan to stabilize the foreign currency rate has had no effect on the market, and the price of goods, especially foodstuff, has not come down by any means. In this case, he points out the price of Thailand rice, which according to him was 250 tumans previously and is now sold at the same price.

I ask Bahram Ja'fari, a cashier in the Shahr-e Rusta Store on Ferdowsi Street, whether the people's greed to buy has subsided compared to before the implementation of the plan for stabilizing the foreign currency rate. He says: No, it has not changed at all. He adds: Because people are not sure about their tomorrow, they are not sure whether or not goods will be available tomorrow. In other words, if we pour tons and tons of goods into this store, it will all be sold immediately. He then says about the effects of the plan and stabilizing the rate of the dollar on prices: The prices have not only not decreased since, but in some cases they have increased. For example, meat that was previously sold at 700-800 tumans per kg has now reached 1,040 tumans per kg.

A government employee in talking with us in the Shahr-e Rusta Store on Ferdowsi Street mentions the decrease in the prices of household appliances and coins as the positive results of the foreign currency stabilization plan and says: People, especially employees, are very hopeful about this plan, and I think this plan in the future will have good results. He considers the decrease in the price of split peas and chick peas from 550 tumans to 380 tumans as another positive consequence of this plan and says: Of course, people expect much more in the way of price reductions. He adds: I heard that the rate of the dollar may even decrease to 200 tumans, in which case, naturally, it will play a significant role in the decrease in prices.

The person in charge of the stationary department of Ferdowsi Street's Shahr-e Rusta store also says: This new government plan has not had much effect on our goods. He adds: The reason is that the basis of our work is paper, and since paper is still very expensive and becomes more expensive every day, this plan has had no effect on our goods.

In continuation, he says: The prices of the rest of the items, if they are domestic products, have stabilized and have not changed so far. Concerning the goods that are imported, on the one hand, due to the decrease in the rate of the dollar, the prices have decreased, but on the other hand, since certain goods are not imported any longer, due to the shortage, the prices have gone up again. In other words, on the whole, the prices have even increased compared to before the implementation of the foreign currency rate stabilization plan. He regards not importing at the rate of 300 tumans as one of the reasons for this problem and says: It seems that this time the government has engaged in this matter more seriously than before.

[16 Jul, p 5]

[FBIS Translated Text] **The discussion that began immediately after the announcement of the plan to stabilize the rate of foreign currency in various economic circles was whether or not this plan is in line with the well-known government modification policy. Does freeing the prices and entrusting the market to supply and demand, which is considered the main point of the supporters of the modification policy, conform to this action of the government that has engaged in setting the price of foreign currency and goods related to foreign currency? In response to this question, economic experts say: Since the economic modification policy of the government has faced major problems in implementation for a variety of reasons, as a result, there remained no other way for the government but to deviate from some of the premises of the economic modification policy.**

An economic expert views the place of the foreign currency rate stabilization plan in the economic modification policy of the government as follows: The government economic modification policy has faced the major problem of lack of political coherence in implementation and lack of an overall picture. Explaining the latter problem, he says: The economic modification policy was restricted to the monetary and foreign currency modification and other aspects, including the reform of the economic structure, reducing and decreasing government expenditures, and freeing the financial burden for investments by making the government small. Unfortunately, these were not successful. He adds: Regarding the sale of the government units to the private sector, again, no clear policy was announced. He then mentions the decrease in the foreign currency revenues of the country, the decrease in the power of the dollar, the increase in the population of the country, and also the issue of foreign debt, the age and attrition of machinery and equipment, the reconstruction of what was destroyed by the war, the large government projects requiring foreign currency, and the bureaucracy that governs the projects as among the factors that escalated the problem of foreign currency for the government. He continues: In this manner, there was no solution left for the government but to stabilize the foreign currency rate. According to him, otherwise, with the rapid increase in the rate of foreign currency, no production unit could make plans, even for the near future, incentives for production would be destroyed, and the tendency to gain large income through dealing would increase daily.

Views of Sellers and Buyers

I ask the fabric salesman in the Ferdowsi Street Shahr-e Rusta Store if he has observed any changes in prices since the establishment of the 300-tuman rate for the dollar. Introducing himself as Musavi, he responds: It has not had much effect on the prices of goods. He adds: The people are hesitant and fearful to buy. They are afraid that the prices of goods will decrease tomorrow. He continues: The number of our customers has decreased.

Fariba Torabzadeh, a homemaker who is shopping at one of the departments of the Ferdowsi Shahr-e Rusta Store, believes that the foreign currency stabilization plan has not had much effect on prices. She says: The very small reduction in the prices of some items, such as rice from 400 tumans to 380 tumans, has had little effect on people's lives. She adds: In any case, the implementation of the plan has had positive effects, and if the government pursues it seriously, the people will benefit.

Eshaq Narimisa, another shopper at the Ferdowsi Street Shahr-e Rusta Store, also evaluates the foreign currency stabilization plan as a very good action by the government and says: In any case, it is the intention of the government to reduce the pressure on the people. Stating that the economy plays an essential role in the fate of the country, he points out: The government must continue the plan decisively and seriously and in this way lessen the pressure on people's lives in order that, step by step with the revolution, as in the past, they can be present on the scene. I ask him about the effects of this plan on prices. He says: This plan will certainly have a positive effect on essential goods that are under government control. In connection with goods such as home appliances and the like, he points out that the production factories import the raw materials with allocated government foreign currency. He regards government success in the implementation of this plan as dependent on precise control of production centers.

Ms. Akhavan, the owner of a clothing department in the Ferdowsi Shahr-e Rusta Store, complains about the uncertainty that governs the market since the announcement of the stabilization of the rate of foreign currency and says: I have invested my capital here and would like to sell my goods and have even lowered the prices to make it easier for people to buy. She adds: Since people have low budgets, they cannot shop. According to this woman, if the rate of the dollar is really stabilized, everyone will be able to buy and sell goods easily.

I speak with the salesman of the steel and household appliances department of the Ferdowsi Shahr-e Rusta Store. He says: The prices have decreased somewhat since the implementation of the foreign currency rate stabilization, but it is not very noticeable. He believes, if the situation turns out as promised, the prices may become fair. He adds: At the present, only those who need to buy come to us; those who really want to buy for other reasons, for example, to sell later at higher prices, do not have the courage to buy. In other words, previously, parallel to the increase in the rate of the dollar the prices also went up, and some engaged in such actions.

Weakness of the Bases of Domestic Production

What people expected initially from the implementation of the stabilization of the foreign currency rate was that immediately the prices of goods and services related to it would decrease. After two months from the start of this plan, apparently this expectation of the people has not been fulfilled.

Economic analyst Dr. Bahman Arman sees the reason for this problem as follows: The increase in the prices is to a great extent psychological, and it is also a reaction to some of the variables. He adds: In this way, it seems that the prices in any case move toward decreases, and if some of the prices have not been rectified yet, it is because it will take time for these prices to react to the internal factors. Stating that the decrease in prices will take place gradually, he says: We must concentrate our attention on the bases of domestic production and make it clear to the people that until the bases of domestic production have grown sufficiently, the conditions and the changes in prices will be affected by external factors and the rate of foreign currency. He considers the severe dependence of our country on some import items and essential goods, such as wheat, sugar, cheese, paper, and even fodder, to be signs of the weakness of the foundations of domestic production and says: Under these conditions, it is natural that any sort of change in the world prices of such goods and any sort of change in the foreign currency rate will have an effect on domestic prices. In this connection, he gives an example and says: Recently, in the course of the first four months of the Christian calendar year, we faced an increase of about 45 percent in paper prices on the world markets. As a country that procures 70 percent of its needed paper from the world markets, how can we say we are not affected by world prices?

He adds: The society can have peace of mind and have relative price stability when the foundations of domestic production have grown. In other words, when our country has enough foodstuff and needed consumer goods at its disposal, the necessary immunities, naturally it will not be affected by imported inflation because a part of the inflation that exists in Iran is imported inflation, which has nothing to do with us. In continuation, Dr. Arman gives another example in connection with the weakness of the foundations of domestic production and its effects on prices and says: Rice is a real example of this problem. Our country in 1994, with a population of 60 million people, was the largest importer of rice in the world. In such a situation, how can we expect the price of rice to be low in the country? Under these conditions, we are forced to accept the effects of the increases in the price of rice on the international markets.

He believes that in order to counter this situation, the people and the officials of the country must, through general mobilization, try to move toward a direction that will, in a four- or five-year program, have domestic production reach such a level that a margin of safety is created for the country. Otherwise, any sort of price decrease will be nothing but a tranquilizer.

Warning Bell for Domestic Products

What effect has the foreign currency stabilization plan had on consumption? Considering that foreign currency has a direct relationship with imported goods, naturally, its use has an effect with regard to imported foreign goods. Now the question is: With the decrease in the price of such goods, which is considered a natural consequence of the decrease in the foreign currency rate, will a tendency toward the consumption of foreign goods not increase in the country? This is a warning bell that the domestic producers are clearly hearing from this moment. What must be done to counter this threat? In this connection, Dr. Bahman Arman says: When the price of the dollar decreases from 600 tumans to half—that is, 300 tumans—this naturally causes the decrease in the price of imports, and as a result imports are encouraged. He continues: Recently, when the rate of foreign currency increased, we saw that the prices of imported goods were severely increasing, and as a result, the people tended to use them less. He evaluates this phenomenon as positive in the national economy and says: Now that the price of foreign currency has come down, both in order to provide tax revenues and also to prevent the negative effects of the decrease in the rate of the dollar or other foreign currencies in the domestic markets, the government must reform the customs tariffs with regard to a series of goods in order to ensure that, ultimately, the inclination of the people toward using foreign goods continues to decline in the country and the consumption of domestic goods becomes preferable to foreign goods. He considers this issue a tragedy for the economy of the country and says: The government must promote the customs tariffs in a direction that foreign goods cost the same as they would with 600-tuman foreign currency in order to reduce the tendency to want them. Dr. Arman adds: Of course, this decrease in consumption must be with regard to particular goods, such as luxury items. On the contrary, the effects of this issue on the imports of investment goals, such as the machinery of the factories and semi-manufactured parts, must be prevented. Explaining further, he says: In a country that can provide a significant part of its needed home appliances itself and, on the other hand, for economic development has vital needs for foreign currency in order to buy machinery and equipment and to create jobs and engage in production, importing luxury home appliances, such as gas stoves or refrigerators, is not necessary.

Reemphasizing the positive aspects of the increase in the price of imported goods, he says: We must not look at the issue in the short term, in passing. Rather, we must see what benefits they will have for the national economy in the long term.

[17 Jul, p 5]

[FBIS Translated Text] **One dares say that the most important goal of the government in implementing the plan to stabilize the foreign currency rate was to rectify the export and import situation of the country. These two issues, which economic experts consider the two basic pillars of the economy in every country, for various reasons, unfortunately have not been able to perform their true mission in the country. As a result of exports and imports, many countries have been able to make their economies as transparent as possible and have accessible developmental goals. A look at the exports and imports of our country reveals for us the bitter truth, that not only have these two not been used in a proper and constructive course, but at various junctures they have placed the economic stability of the country in serious danger.**

The proper, principled policy of encouraging non-oil exports that was pursued by the government with the start of the First Five-Year Plan created the sincere hope that the precarious reliance of the national economy on oil would end and instead the export of mine products and especially manufactured industrial goods would become a certain, reliable component of our national economy. Economic experts believe that despite the passage of at least five years since the start of serious activity of Iranian exporters to export non-oil goods, unfortunately, the goals that had been projected in the government timetable did not materialize. What are the reasons for this failure?

In response to this question, economic experts consider lack of careful control over export items, and especially the foreign currency obtained from them, among the most important reasons for the government failure to properly benefit from non-oil exports. Moreover, the policy of imports in exchange for exports, which mainly include unnecessary goods and luxury items, escalated this shortcoming.

In connection with the foreign currency obtained from non-oil exports, according to officially announced statistics, it has become clear that only about one-third of the foreign currency was returned to the country in the form of needed essential goods, and there is no precise information about the fate of the remaining two-thirds. To counter this problem, the determination was made that exporters must deposit 50 percent of the foreign currency obtained from their exports in a government account, but since it could not achieve its goals in this way, it implemented the plan for stabilizing the foreign currency rate and obliged exporters to deposit 100 percent of the foreign currency obtained from their exports at the rate of R3,000 into a government account.

Exports and Imports and the Stabilization of the Foreign Currency Rate

The implementation of the plan to stabilize the foreign currency rate and announce new foreign currency obligations for exports and imports suddenly stopped the wheels of the export and import of goods in the country. Exporters, who in various ways had obtained permission to export their goods and by exporting them became owners of huge profits and spent their foreign currency funds in any way they wished, with the announcement of the plan for the stabilization of foreign currency, regarded it as unjust and detrimental to the national economy.

Rejecting this claim, economic analyst Dr. Bahman Arman says: A number of exporters say that due to the decrease in the rate of the dollar vis-a-vis the rial, they are unable to export and say that they can export their goods at higher foreign currency rates. This opinion, according to Dr. Arman, is based on ill-intent. Further explaining it, he says: These individuals who make such a statement have forgotten that the non-oil exports of Iran have remained at the level of $4.5 billion for three years, but the increase in the rate of the dollar vis-a-vis the rial is a new phenomenon, which, compared to the past, is only a few months old. He adds: The rate of the dollar vis-a-vis the rial may have been about R6,000 for about two months, but at other times, we have also experienced rates lower than R3,000.

In this part of his statement, he refers to the issue of imports since the implementation of the foreign currency stabilization plan and says: Imports will undoubtedly be encouraged as a result of the reduction in the rate of foreign currency. Here, the duty of the decisionmaking institutions is to learn from the past policies and not create debts for the country by importing consumer goods.

Dr. Arman points out: The foreign debts of the country are the result of the fact that a major portion of the foreign currency reserves of the country have been used for importing unnecessary goods. In this connection, he gives an example and says: Our stores are filled with a variety of foreign goods. The kinds of goods and the amount cannot even be found in stores in industrial countries. Emphasizing that the decisionmaking institutions must learn a lesson from the past, he asks them to allocate the limited foreign currency of the country to importing equipment and machinery for factories and for items that are productive. He adds: In other words, if a decision is made about the import of cheese, rice, and sugar, priority must be given to sugar factories, equipment for new sugar factories, or cheese-manufacturing factories. Obviously consumer goods will not have an effect on the national economy, but machinery and equipment will guarantee the continuation of domestic production. In this connection, he mentions the large sugar cane development project and its side industries in the Province of Khuzestan as an example and says: For example, this plan can be put into operation by spending $1.5 billion and can produce $1 billion worth of paper, sugar, fodder, and livestock feed for the country annually. Logic dictates to us that this project must be put into operation as soon as possible, but if instead of this action we continue importing the paper and sugar that could be the products of this project, ultimately we will have moved toward weakening the national currency of the country. He suggests that the Central Bank, in opening documented credit and allocating foreign currency, should give priority to investment goods and avoid opening credit for unnecessary goods that can be produced domestically. Dr. Arman also says: The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, through customs, and the Ministry of Commerce, through setting new tariffs—that is, increasing tariffs on imported consumer goods and luxury items—can move the situation in a direction in which domestic production will grow and the ability of the rial will become stronger every day. He considers strengthening the foundations of domestic production a decisive and constant necessity for the success of the government in the foreign currency rate stabilization policy.

Foreign Currency Rate Stabilization Plan and Government Obligations

Undoubtedly, the success of the government in implementing the foreign currency rate stabilization policy will leave a new chapter in the history of the often unsuccessful monetary and foreign currency programs of the country. Considering the bitter experiences that people recall from such government actions in recent years, they are rightly concerned that this plan will end like the previous similar plans, and prices once again will begin to increase. Even though the incentives and strengthening and punitive measures by the institutions connected with the implementation of the foreign currency rate stabilization plan have so far created hope in the worried hearts of the people, there is no doubt that alongside and parallel to these measures, the government must not neglect fundamental measures and the use of support projects as well.

Explaining such measures, an economic expert says: The allocation of foreign currency to production units must be based on precise criteria and standards. Otherwise, corruption will result. He adds: Since there is no sufficient foreign currency, the government has to determine and observe the priorities. In this connection, he suggests that in prioritizing, the net foreign currency generating capability of the units must be the criterion. Otherwise, the concern is that foreign currency will be allocated on the basis of uneconomical criteria and political pressures.

He evaluates the overall strengthening of non-oil exports as another obligation of the government to ensure the success of the foreign currency rate plan and says in this connection: Even though, due to certain shortcomings, the return of all the foreign currency from non-oil exports into the country will not be achieved, in any case, it is necessary to encourage it. He also considers necessary the serious and practical continuation of privatization in the country and says: Considering the efficiency level observed in government units, it seems that government industries will not be able to continue their past trend at the 300-tuman foreign exchange rate. He believes that the laws and regulations must be reformed to encourage the private sector to engage in economic activities, and the sale of government units to the private sector must become a reality.

In this connection, he considers downsizing the government among the measures that are obligatory for the success of the foreign currency rate stabilization plan. In this connection, he says: Since the size of government is not proportionate to its efficiency, most government institutions and establishments act in competition with the private sector and the people.

Stating that global experience has shown that government is not a good businessman, he says: Along with downsizing the government, its efficiency must also increase, and to ensure this, reviewing and reducing the expenditures will certainly be more effective than increasing the value of government goods and services.

In another part of his statements, mentioning that the government must take the necessary actions to create the grounds for the entry of foreign currency into the country by various methods, in particular foreign investments, this expert emphasizes the creation of appropriate incentives by the government to adjust the official rate of foreign currency with the black market price and says: As long as there is a demand for foreign currency, the black market will also exist, and ultimately no matter how severe the punishments, they will be no more than a tranquilizer. In the opinion of this expert, the government must pursue ways to make the smuggling of foreign currency unfeasible for smugglers. He says: The cash flow, instead of being used in false jobs, should be used in the production of needed goods in the country.

In any case, it seems that this time, considering the issues raised by economic experts and those concerned about the fate of the country, the government intends to take essential steps to stabilize the rate of foreign currency and solve the problems that result from its fluctuation. It has been two months since the start of the implementation of this plan without any sort of reaction in this regard by the government, on the one hand, and the tangible decrease in prices, on the other; these are reasons for this view.

Instructions Issued on Sale of Foreign Currency

95LA0341F Tehran RESALAT in Persian 18 Jul 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Division—The Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced to all banks the instructions for procedures to sell foreign currency to officials sent abroad on short assignments (up to 90 days).**

According to a report by the Public Relations Office of the Central Bank, these instructions consist of:

1. obtaining and presenting the agreement of the Supervisory Committee Over Foreign Travel of Government Employees (all organizations that are subject to the law, if mentioned by name, with the approval of the highest executive official, are exempt from presenting this agreement);

2. The rate of the sale of foreign currency regarding organizations that use the general government budget shall be from the foreign currency share of the related organization at the floating rate and, regarding other organizations, at the export rate announced by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Pakistan

Daily Views U.S. Senate Move on Pressler Amendment

BK1408103295 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 14 Aug 95 p 3

[Editorial: "Easing of Pressler Amendment—Clinton's Decision To Become Active"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a report, President Clinton has decided to play an active role personally on the relaxation of sanctions imposed against Pakistan under the Pressler Amendment. Through letters and personal contacts, he will persuade members of the U.S. Congress to play their role in allowing the supply of military equipment worth $370 million through to Pakistan. Clinton has decided this in view of the Senate's failure last week to adopt Senator Hank Brown's resolution with similar contents. Brown also said recently that he has won the support of more senators, and soon he will be able to get his comprehensive resolution passed in the Senate. There is, no doubt, sentiment and support in favor of giving some relief to Pakistan in both houses of the U.S. Congress, but the recent bitter experience in the Senate has made it clear that our own homework to get the sanctions eased was not complete.

Though Clinton said during the prime minister's visit to the United States that not supplying the equipment that Pakistan has already paid for and withholding the money paid for that purchase at the same time is unfair. [sentence as published] Similarly, the U.S. secretary of defense and acting secretary of state had also, through their letters to members of Congress, appealed to the senators to relax the Pressler Amendment. Even Pakistan and its embassy were hopeful that the Brown Amendment would be passed. The opponent group, however, proved to be better prepared, and its strategy was more successful.

After the incident, Pakistan's foreign secretary consoled the nation by saying that this setback in the Senate was only a temporary pause that will not bring any lasting effects and consequences. The prime minister herself refused to give much weight to the setback in the Senate. In the light of our past experience, however, we find it necessary to say that we should now adopt a more realistic approach and should not overlook our opponent's strength. Begum Abida Hussain, former Pakistani ambassador to the United States, has already said that the setback in the Senate is a failure of Pakistan's lobbyist Mark Seigal and our own circles in Washington. We should realistically analyze and prevent the causes that led to the event that occurred in the Senate.

It is very obvious that the Congress currently enjoys much more legislative authority than ever before, and it would not be correct to believe that whatever President Clinton or the U.S. Administration favors can get the approval of Congress. The situation has become even more difficult for the U.S. Administration as the Congress is being dominated by the Republican Party. Though all the senators do not cast their vote according to the party line, nor is it a tradition in the United States, yet the Republican party's dominant position creates additional problems for a Democrat president. We should put in more serious efforts to gather support in the Senate.

The report about Clinton's taking an active role has been issued by the APP—the official news agency of Pakistan. In the past this agency's reports were also used to exaggerate the sentiments of sympathy and goodwill found in Washington toward Pakistan. We cannot say, therefore, whether this report about Clinton's active role carries any considerable weight. The way Clinton openly admitted that Pakistan was being treated with injustice demands that he exercise all his power and influence to have the supply of Pakistan's equipment resumed.

Some observers have even expressed the opinion that introducing another resolution to ease the Pressler sanctions might not be possible now for pro-Pakistan senators. Probably this is being propagated by our adversaries, but we should plan for the next move without getting indulged in any false hopes. It should be our aim that the next attempt to bring relaxation of the Pressler Amendment should be a success. Pakistan has a rightful case so we should not face any difficulty in proving its legitimacy.

Official Warns India Against Air, Land Violations

BK1708081795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan has cautioned India that any air and land violation of its territory will invoke instant punitive retaliatory action.

Addressing a news conference in Islamabad this morning, the foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, however, stated unequivocally that Pakistan desires peace, but it would not allow any violation of its territory by Indian forces. He said there has been some movement of Indian forces, which is of concern to us. He added that the Indian forces have been in aggressive posture and Pakistan has to be vigilant. He made it clear that Pakistan is in no way in favor of creating war hysteria. He said there is tension, but we hope better counsel will prevail in New Delhi to avoid war.

The foreign minister told a questioner that Pakistani missions abroad were in contact with countries of their accreditation regarding the current Pakistan-India situation. Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali regretted that the Indian prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, is being led by the hawks in New Delhi.

Further on Official's Warning

BK1708111695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan has cautioned India that any air and land violation of its territory will invoke an instant punitive retaliatory action. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad this morning, the foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, however, stated unequivocally that Pakistan desires peace, but it would not allow any violation of its territory by Indian forces. He said there has been some movement of Indian forces, which is of concern to us. He added that the Indian forces have been in aggressive posture and Pakistan has to be vigilant. He made it clear that Pakistan is in no way in favor of creating war hysteria.

The foreign minister told a questioner that Pakistani missions abroad were in contact with countries of their accreditation regarding the current Pakistan-India situation. Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali regretted that the Indian prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, is being led by hawks in New Delhi.

Referring to the killing of a Norwegian tourist in occupied Kashmir, the foreign minister strongly condemned the incident and said it has been designed by the Indian occupation authorities for seeking sympathy for India and the selection of a Scandinavian national was done for ulterior purposes.

Replying to a question, the foreign minister categorically stated that not a single country has pointed its finger toward Pakistan, involving it in the alleged kidnapping of the foreign tourists in occupied territory. Mr. Asif Ahmad Ali pointed out the logic behind Mr. Narasimha Rao's rhetoric is a particular background in the context of his domestic policies and by resorting to provocative statements against Pakistan, he is trying to save the sinking ship of the ruling party in India.

Prime Minister Rules Out Mid-Term Elections

BK1408072995 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 14 Aug 95 pp 1, 10

[Report by Raja Zulfikar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto Sunday [12 August] expressed her confidence that the government is in the position to go for mid-term polls put ruled out the possibility as her coalition partners want the assembly to complete its five-year term.

"We would, therefore, like to have elections after the present assembly completes its tenure," the prime minister said, turning down Nawaz Sharif's demand for snap polls.

In an unscheduled press talk at her chambers shortly after presiding over a meeting of the PDF [Pakistan Democratic Front] Parliamentary Group, the prime minister deliberated at length on the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] issue, saying that the government wants a political settlement of the Karachi problem and initiated unconditional talks with the Altaf Group to meet that end.

She denied the government is trying to create a third group in the MQM, saying the party is already divided in three factions one led by Altaf Hussain, the other by slain leader Azim Tariq and the third known as Haqiqi.

Ms Bhutto confirmed that one of her state ministers would pilot the bill for the restoration of women's seats in the National Assembly, whether or not the opposition supports the move.

She argued the unrest and law and order problem in some parts of the country are the direct outcome of her government's resolve to crush drug traffickers and anti-state elements. "Having been desperate and disarmed, all of them are united to erode the government's authority and are hiring mercenaries to meet their objectives. But we have challenged them everywhere."

But before she invited the press, she told MNAs [members of National Assembly] at a meeting of the PDF Parliamentary Group to go to their constituencies and solve the people's problems. "Get voting lists rectified, purge them from bogus votes and help people obtain their identity cards," she was quoted by an official spokesman as saying at the meeting where some members wanted the prime minister to comment on the reports of snap polls.

She particularly advised those who won by a little margin the previous elections to work hard, fueling speculation that mid-term elections might be called, although she did not give any such impression at the press talk where she complained that newspapers had not correctly reported her earlier statement on mid-term elections.

Referring to Karachi, the prime minister listed a number of reasons and examples for the law and order problem in the country's commercial hub. She said the city of Karachi has been held hostage for the last 10 years but her government has largely freed it from the clutches of a militant group which kidnapped and killed people.

Ms Bhutto said the Altaf Group chief had termed the two-nation theory as a butt of jokes" in an interview with an Indian magazine, India Today. She said that despite all provocations, the government went for negotiations with the Altaf Group which proves its sincerity.

The prime minister said 12 Kalashinkovs and some rocket launchers were recovered from Farooq Dada who was involved in the mass killing and murder of an army captain. "Altaf Hussain dubbed him as a hero but even then the government did not shut the door for talks."

She stressed for a political solution of the Karachi crisis. "But this should not mean that hooligans be armed with rocket launchers."

Ms Bhutto said a Rs [rupees] 121 billion development programme was launched for the people of Karachi. She said parties differing on various points could settle their differences through negotiations. "Or otherwise, they can go to the people only to find they don't want politics of rocket launchers and Kalashinkovs."

To a question, she said Pakistan's request to Interpol for Altaf Hussain's arrest is justified under the international law. The Interior Ministry is engaged in fulfilling the required legalities she confirmed.

She also talked about the government's diplomatic efforts viz-a- viz the Brown Amendment, saying that some American legislators filibustered it as they would have failed if a voting had been done.

Earlier, at the Parliamentary Party meeting, the prime minister instructed her MNAs to file statements of their assets to the Chief Election Commission without any further delay. The meeting also passed a resolution praising Interior Minister Nasirullah Babar for his commendable action against terrorists.

The meeting saw some members complaining against Wapda [Water and Power Development Authority] and World Bank consultants with Ms Bhutto directing the minister concerned, Mustafa Khar, to look into the matter.

The members were also asked to help the flood victims and move provincial or federal governments where necessary. The MNAs will be meeting the four provincial chief ministers in Islamabad on August 20 to discuss the provincial problems.

Official Proposes Polls To Solve Karachi Problem

BK1408072595 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 14 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — Leader of the Opposition Nawaz Sharif said on Sunday [12 August] that elected representatives returning in the fresh general elections could better solve the Karachi problem through negotiations with the new elected leadership of the country.

The new polls will provide an opportunity to Karachiites to take part in the political process and are the only solution to the prevailing mess," he informally told the news men. "My considered opinion is that the new government can solve the Karachi problem in a better way."

He was of the view that fresh elections were the only way to put the country back on track. While the government should have the priority of rectifying the Karachi situation, it has concentrated on torturing arrested MNAs [members of National Assembly] and victimising the opposition as a whole."

However, Sharif said, the opposition would wait for some more time for the outcome of the government-MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] dialogue. "I wish the official negotiating team all the best and hope the talks will succeed."

To a question about official move to table a bill for restoration of women seats, he said, the opposition would not support any legislation which was meant to promote horse-trading. "Even the women would not like such a bill.

He did not offer any comment when asked whether he was perceiving any change in President Farooq Leghari's attitude and posed a counter-question to the reporter. Do you see it. If you do, I feel the same way. "He refused to tell details of the opposition's contacts with MNAs of other parliamentary parties to bring about an in House change.

Sharif said the government should talk to the opposition on his constitutional package otherwise neither it nor the future government, unless it has the two-thirds majority, can rule in peace.

Answering a question, he said those living in Islamabad and Lahore did not realise the dreadful situation being faced by the Karachiites where everybody was gripped by insecurity. The Karachi problem is increasing the political and economic woes of the country, he said adding that while the dollar is becoming weak against all currencies, it is becoming stronger against Pak rupee.

He said the Prime Minister had no credibility in his view. When the leader of the opposition and the political party which has got a bigger public mandate than that of the ruling party does not have confidence in the leader of the House, she will have no credibility abroad."

Sharif did not say he had any immediate plan to restart his efforts to convene the proposed national conference and said his objective was to bring the government on the conference table with the MQM. "I even directed my party not to create any hurdles when the talks are on because we want their success."

He said the opposition deliberately maintained silence as we did not want to create any furor to leave any negative impact on the negotiations. Our approach was positive."

Sharif said it was undemocratic and immoral on the part of the government to include members of the opposition in its negotiating team without consulting the heads of the parties to which they belonged. He refused to comment on the credentials of Zohair Akram Nadeem, a PML-N [Pakistan Muslim League — Nawaz] turncoat but said, the negotiating team could have had a much better composition than the present.

President Sees 'Qualitative Improvement' in Karachi

BK1608112095 Islamabad THE NATION in English 16 Aug 95 pp 1, 15

[Report by Syed Nadeem]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD — President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said there has been a "qualitative improvement" in the Karachi situation but suggested at the same time it would be wrong to claim the problem has been completely resolved.

He was talking to newsmen after performing the ground-breaking ceremony of the National Press Club Complex on Tuesday [15 August]. The President's assessment was that the Karachi problem was very complex and would take some time to get resolved. Even the Prime Minister had said that it would take a year and a half before the violence would be near-resolution or totally eliminated, he recalled.

"There were serious shortcomings in the past on the side of the State in tackling the issue of terrorism in Karachi. I think it will take much more than just administrative steps to improve the situation. It takes political, economic, social and administrative measures to be able to overcome the problem. It is also a question of winning the battle for the hearts and minds of the people of Karachi.

"I think people who are in positions, who take decision in these matters, have understood the complexity of the problem and they are keen to progress along those lines simultaneously.

About the process of dialogue, he said certainly talks were part of all this. "It is important that we proceed in a number of areas and I think things are moving in that way." About the deadlock in talks, he thought it would soon come to an end.

To a question, President Leghari said the Karachi problem, by definition, was one which could not be controlled in a short time. "It has to be a longish problem. But in my view, the government's intelligence gathering and their effectiveness in dealing with some of the hardcore terrorists has been successful. But it will take much more than this to finally resolve the issue."

About the continuing violence, Farooq Leghari said, as far as the killings were concerned, these would unfortunately carry on for some time. "They will go up and come down."

To another question, the President said there was no gap between the government and the opposition on vital national issues. "This is only a political gap." Earlier in his speech, he had highlighted the existence of consensus among all political parties on issues of national interest.

About time for his role for a rapprochement between the government and the opposition, he said: "As the President of the country, it is my duty to ensure that the government functions in accordance with the Constitution and the law. It is also important that whenever there is division, we should try and smoothen things so that the government and the opposition start performing their functions in a more effective manner.

"Whenever it is possible and necessary, I consider it my duty to do so. It's not just now. I have been playing my little role in my own little way."

When asked about Altaf Hussain desiring his intervention, President Leghari said: "Altaf knows this very well that irrespective of whether they had voted for me or not, I would have done my duty in any case. Even if they had not voted for me, whether it is in the interest of the State, for peace and for the people of Karachi, I will do it. But I don't have to announce everything I am doing."

Coming back to the situation in Karachi, he said: "It is mostly the common, the poor people who are going through the agony. Whether it is a strike or killings, it happens in relatively poorer areas more than in well-to-do localities. We have to pay attention to their problems. Also those people would have to come forward to provide information to the government so that terrorists and extortionists can be identified and taken care of."

Asked about the replacement of Sindh IGP [Inspector-General of Police] Afzal Shigri he said these were routine administrative measures as officials keep changing. "The previous IG has done a good job and I am sure he will continue that in the new place. Same is expected of the new IGP. "About ties with the Central Asian States, he said the Prime Minister is scheduled to visit two of these states. "This is part of our efforts to build even closer economic relations and I shall be following up the issues in this direction."

MQM Chief Expresses Confidence in Farooq Loyalty

BK1208124995 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 12 Aug 95 p 11

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi — The self-exiled MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] Chief, Altaf Hussain, has condemned the disinformation campaign by the government about Dr Imran Farooq [a leader of the MQM-Altaf Group] and said his loyalty is beyond all doubts.

In a statement issued on Friday [11 August], Altaf said the government had broken all the records in its move against Muhajirs by running a baseless campaign about Dr Imran who was a hero of the Muhajir nation. He said every worker knew very well that the loyalty of Imran Farooq was beyond all doubts.

He said the sacrifices of Dr Imran Farooq were incomparable and unforgettable. He paid rich tributes to Dr Imran and appealed to the Muhajir masses not to get misguided by the government's disinformation campaign and to express their solidarity against such conspiracies.

He also condemned the shifting of MQM workers, leaders and legislators to Islamabad and said the government had flouted all the constitutional, legal, ethical and democratic norms. Altaf said the manner in which the government was using the state resources against Muhajirs was a worst chapter of Pakistan's history but the silence of democratic and human rights bodies on it was surprising.

He said on the one hand the government was killing Muhajir masses and on the other it was conspiring to create an official faction of the MQM which was a conspiracy against the 22 million Muhajirs.

Altaf expressed his full confidence in his loyalist party leaders, legislators, workers and Muhajir masses that they would effectively foil the government's conspiracy with their unity and would remain stuck to their just cause.

Altaf Group Accused of Protecting 'Terrorists'

BK1708090495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister of state for law, Senator Raza Rabbani, has said the elements who were trying to cover up murderers and terrorists involved in dozens of cases have exposed their nefarious designs themselves. In a statement in Islamabad yesterday, he regretted that the Altaf Group people were trying to project those as their heroes who have been committing brutalities against the innocent people.

In Karachi, the District East police in a raid on a bungalow at Jehangir Road has arrested a terrorist, Tariq Hasan Rizvi, and another person. The accused was involved in the killing of a police constable of the New Town police station and several others.

Minister Pledges Support to People of Kashmir

BK1708075295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0500 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister for Kashmir Affairs and Northern Areas, Mr. Mohammad Afzal Khan, has said Pakistan will continue to provide the oppressed Kashmiris with moral, political, and diplomatic support to get their right of self-determination according to the UN resolution.

He was addressing a huge crowd of Kashmiris in New York who had gathered to protest the atrocities being perpetrated by the Indian forces on innocent Kashmiris in the held valley. The minister for Kashmir Affairs also condemned violations of human rights and said the volatile valley of occupied Kashmir has destabilized the peace of Southeast [as heard] Asia.

Official Cites Progress in Economic Stability

BK1708075795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Ministry of Finance has said the country has achieved significant progress in strengthening macroeconomic stability since the assumption of power by the present government.

A spokesman of the ministry said in Islamabad yesterday that the GDP growth has improved from 3.8 percent in 1993-94 to 4.7 percent in 1994-95. He said the exports have also recorded a growth rate of 18.14 percent during the last financial year. The position of reserves is also immensely better and the reserves which amounted to $461 million on 30th of June 1993 had risen to $2,736.7 million in June last. The spokesman said that the budget deficit has been brought down from 7.9 percent in June 1993 to 5.6 percent of GDP in June 1995. During the period, the growth in agriculture has nearly doubled.

The spokesman made it clear that the interest of foreign investors in Pakistan has been more than ever and foreign investment has increased 141 percent this year over the last year. The spokesman refuted the assertion made by the leader of the opposition, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, about the economic situation of the country on his return from London.

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